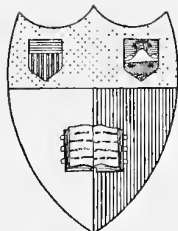




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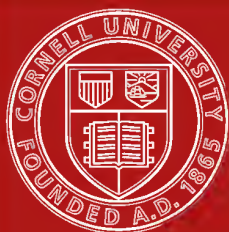
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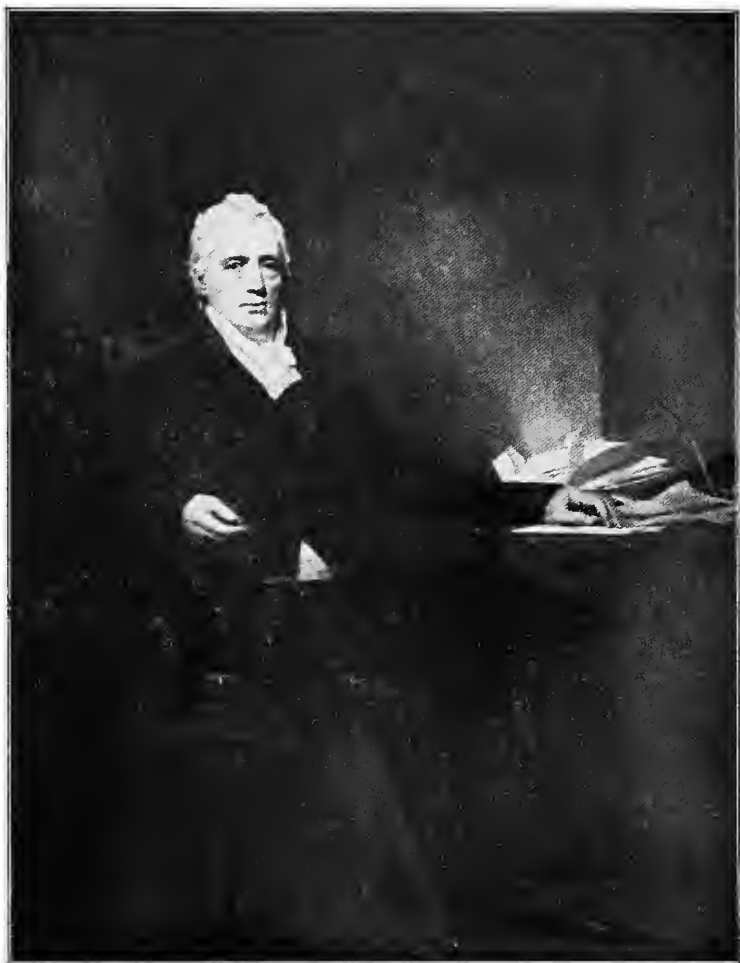
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THE NORTHERN HIGHLANDS IN THE  
NINETEENTH CENTURY.







CHARLES GRANT, M.P., 1802-18.



*The Northern Highlands*  
IN THE  
*Nineteenth Century.*

NEWSPAPER INDEX AND ANNALS.

By JAMES BARRON.

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*Volume I.—1800 to 1824.*

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INVERNESS : ROBT. CARRUTHERS & SONS.

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## PREFATORY NOTE.



THE present volume explains itself. It consists of a newspaper index, arranged so as to form a series of annals of the Northern Highlands during the first quarter of the nineteenth century. If circumstances permit, the compiler will endeavour to follow it up with similar volumes for subsequent years. The practice of giving extracts from the newspapers of the past century is not uncommon, but has seldom been full and systematic. The present series has been prepared in chronological order, and illustrates a district which has its natural centre at Inverness, and possesses a character and individuality of its own. The volume will in any case be a help in the search of newspaper files, which is often undertaken with only the vaguest clue.

INVERNESS, August 1903.

## ERRATA.

Page 2.—There are two mistakes in dates in the first entry in James Suter's Memorabilia. The first election of Charles Grant for the County of Inverness was in 1802, not 1800 ; and he retired in 1818, not 1819. It may be said that a contemporary writer is liable to make mistakes in dates unless he is careful to verify his recollections.

Page 12, Feb. 12,—“ Pampler ” should be “ Rambler.”

Page 23, June 16, second entry.—In this paragraph the question is asked, What was meant by the Island? From subsequent entries it seems clear this was the name given to the present Islands, and that the market was held somewhere near the eastern island, on the river bank.

Page 77, Nov. 4.—“ Community ” should be “ Commonty.”

Page 158, line 33.—For “ Logan ” read “ Lyon.”

Page 237, February 26.—William Brodie appointed Lord-Lieutenant of Ross-shire should be “ Lord-Lieutenant of Nairnshire.”

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## INTRODUCTION.

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**I**n the year 1801 the first Parliamentary census was taken in Great Britain. The total population of Scotland was returned in that year as 1,608,420. In 1821 the population had risen to 2,091,521, and in 1901 the returns show a total of 4,472,103. This gives, in spite of copious emigration, an increase of nearly three-fold in a hundred years. How has it fared in the same period with the five (nominally six) Northern Counties, Inverness, Nairn, Ross and Cromarty, Sutherland, and Caithness? In the district formed by these counties the total population in 1801 was 183,038, and twenty years later, 221,012; while in 1901 it stood at 231,155. We are thus 48,117 better than a hundred years ago, and 10,143 better than eighty years ago. Compared with the rise in general population, the increase in the Northern Highlands is trifling, but some persons will be surprised to find that any increase at all has taken place. The following table of comparative figures may be given:—

Counties.	1801.	1821.	1901.
Inverness .....	72,672	89,961	90,104
Nairnshire .....	8,322	9,268	9,291
Ross and Cromarty...	56,318	68,762	76,450
Sutherland .....	23,117	23,840	21,440
Caithness .....	22,609	29,181	33,870
	183,038	221,012	231,155

Generally speaking, there was an increase in the population of the district until the middle of the past century. The highest figures in all the counties except Nairnshire are to be found in the twenty years between 1841 and 1861. Another tabular statement will show the year in which each county touched its highest limit:—

Year.	County.	Population.
1841 .....	Inverness-shire .....	97,799
1851 .....	Ross-shire .....	82,707
1851 .....	Sutherland .....	25,793
1861 .....	Caithness .....	41,111
1881 .....	Nairnshire .....	10,455

Thus the County of Inverness reached its highest point in 1841, when the population stood at 97,799. It was at its lowest in 1861 and 1871, when the numbers were a little over 88,000. For the last three decades the returns have been rather above 90,000, but showing 350 more in the first than in the last of the three. The County of Ross, however, has steadily fallen from 82,707 in the middle of the nineteenth century, to 76,450 in the first year of the twentieth. Sutherland has fallen from 25,793 in 1851 to 21,440 in 1901; Caithness from 41,111 in 1861 to 33,870 in 1901; Nairnshire from 10,455 in 1881 to 9291 in 1901. Though special causes, such as the extension of sheep farms at one period and latterly the growth of deer forests, have certainly operated to restrict and reduce population, there is no doubt that more general causes have had considerable effect. The chief decrease has occurred since the country began to be opened up by railways. During the same period the whole world has been opened up, and its remotest corners have become accessible; and the Highlands have freely contributed a proportion of their sons and daughters not only to industrial centres in the South of Scotland and in England, but to the colonisation of English-speaking lands. The Education Act of 1872 has accelerated the migration of young people, and the Crofters Act has not stopped the movement; indeed, there are observers who think that it has helped it forward by giving the tenants in possession a hold of the soil, and making it their interest to check squatting and sub-division. For our present purpose, however, it is only necessary to note that the population of the district is, as has been said, 48,000 higher than in 1801, and 10,000 higher than in 1821. The distribution is, of course, very different now from what it was then; there are more people in the towns and fewer in the rural districts.

As to the town of Inverness itself, the earlier returns did not discriminate between burgh and parish. In 1801 the total population of both was 8732; in 1821 it was



12,264; and in 1901 it had risen to 27,046. As far as can be made out, the population of the town proper was in 1801 about 5500, and in 1821 about 8500; these figures, however, to be taken as including more than the Royal burgh. In 1901 the population of the town, embracing the portion which was beyond the municipal boundary, was 23,066. The boundaries were extended as this volume was passing through the press, and now include the total just given, or a little more. Thus the population of town and parish together has increased more than three times during the century; the town itself has increased more than four times.

The period which this volume covers was the great era of road-making in the Northern Highlands, and also witnessed the construction of the Caledonian Canal. Confining our attention meantime to roads, it may be said generally that to the north of Inverness and the west of the Great Glen, there were at the beginning of the nineteenth century no proper roads, except one along the East Coast to Wick, which was satisfactory in parts, and in parts rough and imperfect, and several well-constructed lines in the Peninsula of the Black Isle, lying between the Moray and Cromarty Firths. Two roads had been made to the west, but, as will afterwards appear, they were practically useless for wheeled vehicles. Lord Cockburn, in his Memorials, says:—"Those who are born to modern travelling can scarcely be made to understand how the previous ages got on. The state of the roads may be judged of from two or three facts. There was no bridge over the Tay at Dunkeld, or over the Spey at Fochabers, or over the Findhorn at Forres. Nothing but wretched ferries, pierless, let to poor cottars, who rowed or pushed or hauled a crazy boat across, or more commonly got their wives to do it." He says that he rode circuits himself when he was Advocate-Depute between 1807 and 1810. There were no bridges from Inverness northwards across the large rivers, although some of the smaller streams had been spanned. The bridge at Brora, in Sutherland, is

specially mentioned by Pennant. In the Central Highlands the military roads begun by General Wade and carried on long after his time, afforded convenient means of communication, but they were formed on military rather than commercial plans, and many of them were so roughly constructed, so liable to get damaged by floods and the fall of debris, that they were difficult to keep in repair. The Survey of the Province of Moray, published in 1798, gives a list of roads, which is too long to be quoted in full, but may be summarised. The writer treats the post road running parallel to the Moray Firth, as the basis of all the other roads, and we follow his arrangement as follows:—

Main road from Inverness to Edinburgh, by way of Elgin, Fochabers, Banff, Aberdeen, Forfar, Perth, and Queensferry, 236 miles.

First Branch.—From Inverness by way of Fort-Augustus to Edinburgh, 161 miles. It is noted that there was a road to Fort-Augustus (32 miles) on each side of Loch-Ness, but the southern only was passable for wheeled vehicles. From Fort-Augustus the road went over Corryarrick, and by way of Garvamore, Dalwhinnie, Dalnacardoch, and Dunkeld, to Perth. The distance from Inverness to Perth by this route was 126 miles, but the road over Corryarrick was very steep. A branch led from Fort-Augustus to Fort-William, 29 miles, making the length of road between Inverness and Fort-William 61 miles. There was also a road from Fort-Augustus to Bernera, in Glenelg, on the West Coast, 43 miles; but Telford, in his report a few years later, says that only “the vestiges” of this road remained. This is the route which Dr Johnson and Boswell travelled in 1773, when they found military parties working on the road.

Second Branch.—This road led from Inverness by way of Dalmagarry (Moyhall) to Aviemore and Dalwhinnie, and thence by the road before-mentioned to Perth and Edinburgh, a distance of 155 miles.

Third Branch.—This road broke off five miles from

Fort-George, going by way of Dulsie Bridge to Grantown, Tomintoul, Braemar, Glenshee, and Blairgowrie, thence by Coupar-Angus to Perth. Distance between Inverness and Edinburgh, 167 miles. It is stated that a new road had been lately formed direct from Dulsie Bridge to Aviemore by one stage of 18 miles. This was the most direct road from Forres through Badenoch to Edinburgh.

Fourth Branch.—This branch struck off from the main road at Fochabers, conducted up the River Spey. At Rothes it was joined by a road from Elgin. Thence it proceeded to Aberlour and Grantown, from which the journey could be continued either by Aviemore or Tomintoul. There was also a road from Aberlour through Glenrinnnes and Glenlivet to Tomintoul.

Fifth Branch.—This road also set off from Fochabers to Edinburgh, going by way of Keith, Huntly, Boat of Alford, Kincardine O' Neil, across the Grampians to Fettercairn, and so to Brechin, where it joined the main road. The distance from Inverness to Edinburgh was 205 miles. There was a connecting road from Huntly to Aberdeen.

Sixth Branch.—This branch left the "great road" at Stonehaven, and proceeded by way of Dundee. This road was "the course of the post," and the distance from Inverness to Edinburgh was about 172 miles; but the crossing of the firths at Dundee and Kinghorn made it undesirable for ordinary travellers.

The writer of the chapter adds the following comments:—"The shortest road from Inverness to Edinburgh, through Badenoch, is greatly superior to any of the others, in the complete repair in which it is always kept, in the satisfactory accommodation of almost every necessary bridge, and in the ingenuity and care with which the acclivities are in general avoided. The snow, however, in winter is often so embarrassing that it is but little frequented during that season; the inns, of course, are then but poorly provided; the shivering traveller is received in a room comfortless and cold, and most of the

articles in the bill are charged one-third higher, on the pretence of the distant land carriage, than in the taverns along the Coast. The other roads are not always in so good repair as with little care and skill might be attained, and little or no ingenuity has been exerted in avoiding the acclivities."

It will be observed that the list of roads given above applies only to the communications of Inverness with the East and South. To make his work complete, the writer describes the continuation of the post road from Inverness to the extremity of the island at Houna, where the Pentland Firth was crossed to the Orkney Islands. The route lay by Beauly, Dingwall, Tain, and the Meikle Ferry to Dornoch, thence to Golspie, Helmsdale, and Wick. The journey could be shortened by taking the ferries to and from the Black Isle. He mentions that at Dunbeath a branch set off "through the causeway mire" to Thurso. He also complains of the "very considerable revenue" exacted from the traveller by the proprietors of ferries, "above what is requisite for the support and navigation of the boats."

From the particulars given above, it appears that previous to 1800 the Central Highlands were well supplied with roads, though many of them were not of a kind suitable to modern times. If we take a wider survey, we find that the whole system of Highland roads, central and northern, with the partial exception of the highway along the Coast, was the work of about a hundred years, beginning with the operations of General Wade in 1725. Up till his time the roads in the glens were mostly cattle tracks, broadened by use as traffic increased, and in part enclosed by turf dykes. Burt describes certain native roads as "so rough and rocky that no wheel ever turned upon them since the formation of this globe"; but perhaps the rockiness, as a general characteristic, is exaggerated. Dr Alexander Ross, Inverness, who has examined the remains of some of the old cattle tracks, says that they gave the guiding lines to General Wade's system. They

had often a broad margin, where cattle got a bite of grass in summer as they moved along. A specimen of these roads is to be seen in the neighbourhood of Inverness, going over the Leachkin. "The space between the bounding dykes is so considerable that squatters settle on the margin and build houses." (See paper in the fourteenth volume of the Transactions of the Inverness Gaelic Society.) During the eighteenth century the great lines of military road were constructed in the Central Highlands, converging at Inverness. The late Sir Kenneth Mackenzie of Gairloch, in two valuable papers, which appear in the fifth volume of the Transactions of the Inverness Field Club, describes these roads, and says that the system attained its fullest development about 1784. The total extent of military roads was about 1100 miles. In 1814 the last of them were transferred to the care of the Commissioners of Highland Roads and Bridges; but by that time the extent under maintenance had fallen to 530 miles. Only one military road was ever made in Ross-shire, running from Contin, near Strathpeffer, to Poolewe. Sir Kenneth says he was told by a relative how Lady Seaforth, on her way to the Lews, attempted to take her coach over this road with disastrous results. It got as far as Loch-Achanault, about fifteen miles from Contin, but was then so wrecked that it was not worth taking back to Brahan. "Certainly," says Sir Kenneth, "at the beginning of this [the nineteenth] century, the road was not used for wheels, and I doubt whether the traffic between the East and West Coasts was ever carried over it otherwise than by pack-horses." He mentions as a singular fact that in the police books of the County of Ross no reference is ever made to the military parties working on this road, though from 1770 onwards the statute labour upon it was regularly arranged for.

There was a succession of distinguished travellers to the North of Scotland in the latter half of the eighteenth century. Bishop Forbes, who travelled to John O'Groats in 1762, left his wife at Inverness, as he was afraid of the

Ross-shire roads, but he repented his caution, as he says he "found the roads, though only natural, extremely good." The Bishop went by way of Ardersier and Fortrose through the Black Isle, travelling in a post-chaise. He was able to use the conveyance as far as Tain, and then took to horseback. Pennant, who followed the same route in 1769, says that after leaving Dingwall he rode "along a very good road cut on the side of a hill, with the country very well cultivated above and below." He mentions that he crossed the water of Brora, in Sutherland, by a handsome bridge of a single arch. He had to ford the River Helmsdale, but he ascended the Ord Hill, that "vast promontory," as he calls it, "on a good road winding up its steep sides, and impending in many parts over the sea." His precursor, Bishop Forbes, gives a graphic description of the ascent of this road. He says that he "rode up every inch of it, a thing rarely done by any persons," though his companions, gentlemen and servants, walked every foot of it, a good long mile. "Its steepness," he says, "and being all along on the very brink of a precipice, are the only difficulties; for otherwise it is one of the finest roads in the world, being so broad that in most places two coaches might pass one another, and then of fine, hard channel naturally, which no storm can make an impression on so as to break it. But then so very steep it is, particularly at entering upon it, that no machine can be drawn up it by any cattle whatsoever, unless it be empty; and even then there must be some sturdy fellows at the back of it, pushing it forward to assist the horses; for if they are allowed to make the least stop, backward they must tumble by the very declivity of the place." The same pleasant traveller gives a description of the "Causeway-mire" road to Thurso, which diverged to the left in the neighbourhood of Latheronwheel. The landlord of the inn told him that this was a piece of ground that few gentlemen in Caithness would venture on, except under the conduct of a man familiar with it. "Accordingly," the Bishop proceeds,

“he [the landlord] got one John Sutherland for us, a sturdy, stout fellow, with whom we set out at four o'clock, and who performed his part very well over the Causey-mire, one continued piece of mossy ground for about two miles at least, full of sloughs and quagmires, directly across the road to Thurso; but why it is called by such a name I could not conceive, as the smallest vestige of a causeway we could not discover in the whole. However, at Thurso they told me that a causeway had been there of old, but it had sunk down out of sight by the ruins of time.” Two of the party slipped off through their horses bogging in the mire. “The only way,” says the Bishop, “of crossing in these narrow sloughs is to make the horses go speedily over; for if they make the least halt, or too leisurely a step, down they must sink.”

In the year 1773, Dr Samuel Johnson and Boswell travelled in a post-chaise as far as Inverness, and thence rode to the West Coast by way of Fort-Augustus and Glenmoriston. “We were now,” says Dr Johnson, in his Tour, “to bid farewell to the luxury of travelling, and to enter upon a country upon which perhaps no wheel has ever rolled. We could indeed have used our post-chaise one day longer along the military road to Fort-Augustus, but we could have hired no horses beyond Inverness.” On the way from Fort-Augustus to Glenelg the travellers entertained a party of soldiers who were working at the road. For some reason this road was allowed rapidly to fall into decay. Sir Kenneth Mackenzie mentions that it was on the list of military roads as late as 1799, but that Colonel Anstruther stated a few years later that, though it had been on the list, “it had never existed as a road, nor had it been ordered to be inserted in any estimate.” Sir Kenneth points out that this was a mistake, and that from 1770 to 1784 the road had been named in all the detailed estimates laid before Parliament. He thinks that Colonel Anstruther's investigations had probably not gone back beyond the year 1790, when military labour was dispensed with. The Parliamentary

estimates for 1770 include a sum "for building an inn on the line of road from Fort-Augustus to Bernera, there being no house in fifty miles of said line." This was the inn at which Johnson and Boswell put up. The neglect into which the road had fallen is succinctly disclosed by Telford, who says in 1802, that "there are just the vestiges remaining of what was once a military road to Bernera, opposite the back of the Isle of Skye." This road to Glenelg, and the road from Contin to Poolewe, seem to have been the only two "made" roads which crossed the Highland mainland to the West Coast, and they were obviously very imperfect and unfit for wheeled traffic. A road to Ullapool had been formed in 1792, but it was so badly constructed that it soon fell into decay, and had to be reconstructed by Telford.

Mention may be made of an Atlas of Scotland, published by authority of Parliament in 1776. It is entitled "Taylor and Skinner's Survey and Maps of the Roads of North Britain or Scotland," and is inscribed to John, Duke of Argyle, Commander of his Majesty's Forces in North Britain. In a note the publishers say:—"We shall only observe that the military roads are kept in the best repair; and so much has been done of late years to the other roads by the attention of the nobility and gentry that travelling is made thereby incredibly easy, expeditious, and commodious; and such a spirit of improvement prevails throughout Scotland that we may venture to say a few years will complete all the public roads in that part of the United Kingdom. There are good inns on all the roads, with post-chaises and horses at every stage as far north as Inverness, by Aberdeen." It will be observed that Inverness is the limit. The maps show the East Coast road winding along the shore to Wick, John O'Groats, and Thurso; also the military roads of the Central Highlands and the road from Fort-Augustus to Glenelg. It likewise shows the roads of the Black Isle, and one turning west from Dingwall, and going towards Contin. North of Inverness the Coast road is broken



by the ferries of Beauly, Conon, Meikle Ferry, and Little Ferry. The condition of affairs which we have thus described is practically the same as Telford found it to be in his survey and report of 1802. He speaks as if the general road connections of the country terminated at Tain. He emphasises the lack of bridges not only on the Northern rivers, but on the Spey at Fochabers and the Tay at Dunkeld. Summing up, it may be said that in the beginning of the nineteenth century, Inverness was the natural limit of traffic or travelling by wheeled vehicles. A conveyance might go as far as Tain, but horses were difficult to be obtained. The "natural roads," or cattle tracks, were better than we might nowadays imagine, but only for their own purposes or for foot passengers. The military roads in the Central and Southern Highlands had served their day, and were insufficient. There was a clamant necessity for a new and extensive system of roads if the Highlands were to be incorporated with the rest of the country.

The Act for making Roads and Bridges in the Highlands and for constructing the Caledonian Canal was passed in 1803, and the work was promptly begun, under the general superintendence of the famous engineer, Mr Telford, who appointed qualified assistants. For years thereafter the work went on, giving the Highlands in the end the splendid system of communication which they have since enjoyed. It is easy to understand what the mere expenditure of money meant to a large and impoverished district. Among the objects aimed at were the opening up of intercourse, the promoting of fisheries, and the stoppage of emigration. The making of new roads through the central Highlands and the west and north continued until 1821, the construction of the Canal proceeding during the same period. Every year saw steady progress. Mr Telford began with the building of the bridges over the Tay at Dunkeld and over the Spey at Fochabers, the latter not directly under the Commissioners, but assisted by the Treasury, and apparently superin-

tended by their engineer. The bridge near Forres, over the Findhorn (which was carried away by the flood of 1829), was undertaken by local effort, but Mr Telford seems to have been consulted. "The whole expenditure on new roads and bridges," says the late Mr Joseph Mitchell, C.E., "amounted to £540,000, of which £267,000 was furnished by the Government, the difference being contributed by the counties and individuals. This sum was expended on 875 miles of roads, and on several large bridges not included in the road contracts, the average over all amounting to a cost of about £400 a mile." From other sources we learn that the counties contributed to the above sum £214,000, and individual proprietors, £60,000. Harbours and ferry piers were also constructed, half the cost provided by balances remaining from the forfeited estates, and half by individual contributions, the total coming to £110,000.

The progress of improvement can be traced in the files of Inverness newspapers from the year 1807. We see about the erection of bridges at Beauly, at Conon, at Contin, at Bonar, about the construction of the Mound, in Sutherland, and the completion of roads to the east, west, and south. The roads in the central Highlands follow in many places a new line, and were, of course, much better formed than the old military roads. In November 1807, we read that "the total number of roads now formed and forming in the Highlands amount to forty," and the same issue notices the erection of a pier at Broadford, Skye, through the exertions of Lord Macdonald. At length, in April 1818, we are informed that "from Edinburgh to Inverness, and from Inverness to John O'Groat's House, it is now possible to travel without crossing a ferry or fording a river, or even encountering a descent where the necessity of using a drag-chain is required." It is right to note that the proprietors gave willing contributions to the extension of roads. For instance, we read in 1809 that the road to Glenelg had been contracted for as far as Aonach, in Glenmoriston, being constructed to this point

by the aid of assessments, but beyond it by means of private subscriptions. The list of these subscriptions was headed by Lord Macdonald with £1000, and followed by Lord Seaforth with £500, Macleod of Macleod with £400, Sir Hugh Innes of Lochalsh with £300, and others with contributions of from £100 to £200. It may be added that the system of roads in Sutherland was completed in the north and west of the county about the year 1830, at the expense of the house of Sutherland.

Along with the work of road-making came improvement in mail and travelling accommodation. In 1800 the mails were carried to Inverness by post-horses three times a-week from Aberdeen. The time at which a daily mail coach was established between Aberdeen and Inverness is sometimes given as 1809 or 1810. The newspaper file, however, gives the exact date as 5th April 1811, the fares for the journey being—Inside, £3 13s 6d; outside, £2 9s. The late Mr A. P. Hay, postmaster at Inverness, says that a two-horse post was all that was provided at first, but it was soon followed by a four-in-hand. The time taken to transmit a letter from London to Inverness was, he says, six days. Meantime communication, more or less regular, had been established by the central road to Edinburgh. Mr James Suter notes that the first attempt to start a regular coach to Perth was made in 1806, but it was soon discontinued. In 1809 we find the "Duchess of Gordon Inverness Coach" running three times a-week in summer and twice a-week in winter. Mr Hay says that for some time its expenses were supplemented from the Corporation funds. Until the roads were well advanced, the mails north of Inverness were conveyed by a man and pony to Tain, and thence by post-runner. In March 1808 there is an advertisement of the first carrier going beyond Dingwall. His name was Donald Ross, and he was to travel as far as Tain. In June 1809 a "diligence," as it was called, began to run from Inverness to Tain by way of Beauuly and Dingwall. The same issue that records this step mentions the following instance of the rapidity with which a person might now travel in the

Highlands. "Mr Gordon of Carrol, a few days ago, left Edinburgh per the Inverness coach, and reached his house in Sutherland, a distance of 215 miles, in forty-seven hours and a-half." In September 1818 a proposal was made to start a mail diligence to Wick and Thurso, the local authorities at Inverness, Bonar, and Helmsdale allowing it to pass their bridges toll free, and the counties of Ross and Sutherland each subscribing £200 to assist the movement. The coach started in the following July (1819), being timed to leave Inverness at 6 a.m., to arrive at Wick at half-past seven on the following morning, and at Thurso at half-past eleven. Mr John Anderson, in his *Essay on the Highlands*, published in 1826, says that horses were brought from Edinburgh, and stables and inns erected by Lord Stafford at very considerable expense. "By one common bond of intercourse," he adds, "the two most distant parts of the island, the one situated at the extremity of the English Channel, the other in the latitude of John O'Groat's House, were thus joined together, at a distance of 1082 miles. In no country, it may safely be said, is there a parallel of so rapid a change." To us of the twentieth century, the change only marks a small step of progress; but to men of that generation it seemed an extraordinary advance. Dr Alexander Ross, however, in the paper formerly mentioned, notes that even after the roads were available and stage coaches running, the county families did not always avail themselves of the public conveyances, but continued posting with the same horses all the way to London. "While looking," he says, "over a wonderful collection of old carriages in the coach-house of the late Sir George Dunbar, with great C springs and rumble behind, I remember remarking to the old coachman that these carriages were worthy of being put into a museum. He replied, 'Many's the time I have driven them to London all the way.' On expressing my astonishment that they should have been so recently in use, he said, 'Ah, sir, these were the fine old times. We used to leave here about the end of October and reach London in about two months, travelling each day about thirty

miles, and staying ten days or a fortnight in Edinburgh to dine with the lawyers and settle our law pleas. When we got near London we would meet other families also going in, and the young folks would have rare times. We left London about the beginning of April, and took a similar time to reach home. Of course,' he said, 'we often had to rest the horses and get them shod, and such events lost us a day now and then.'" Dr Ross observes that these were the picturesque days of travelling, when men took time to look at the country and to know the people.

The work of constructing the Caledonian Canal greatly assisted in opening up the Highlands and in distributing money during a trying period. For nearly twenty years the Canal employed large relays of workmen, many of them day labourers, many skilled masons and carpenters from the counties of Nairn and Moray. Exclusive of payment for land and for damage (which came in the end to £48,000), the estimated cost of construction was £474,531. This sum, however, was greatly exceeded. When the waterway was opened in 1822, the cost had reached £884,000, and subsequent operations, completed in 1847 or a little later, brought the total up to £1,300,000.\*

\* The following figures, taken from the official reports on the Canal, have been kindly supplied:—

OUTLAY ON CALEDONIAN CANAL FROM OCTOBER 1805 TILL  
MAY 1822.

1. Management and Travelling Expenses	£28,013	1	2½
2. Timber and Carriage thereof ... ..	68,013	9	11
3. Machinery, Cast-iron Work, Tools, &c.	117,336	7	11½
4. Quarries and Masonry ... ..	190,945	12	0¾
5. Shipping ... ..	10,794	2	3½
6. Houses and other Buildings ... ..	4,283	18	3½
7. Labour and Workmanship—Daywork ...	30,885	2	11
8. Do. do., Measure Work ... ..	377,349	1	2½
9. Purchase of Land and Payments on ac- count of Damages ... ..	47,683	2	8½
10. Purchase and Hire of Horses and Pro- vender ... ..	2,956	0	2
11. Incidental Expenses ... ..	1,872	13	8
12. Road-making ... ..	4,026	19	8½
	£884,159	12	1¾
Balance at credit, Messrs Hoare's a/c...	987	15	1
Total ... ..	£885,147	7	2¾

The difficulties presented by the loose gravel of the bed, and the enormous rise in wages and prices during the Continental war, account for the increase in expenditure. Labourers who were paid from 1s 6d to 1s 8d per day in 1803, received in 1814 from 2s 4d to 2s 6d, and skilled workmen shared in the advance, though in somewhat smaller proportion. The price of timber was doubled, and in the case of native fir, more than doubled in the same period. The native fir and birch came largely from Lochiel's forest and from Glenmoriston, and was reported by Telford to be particularly hard and sound, more durable in vessels and wheeling planks than Baltic timber at double the expense. The dressing stone was obtained at the east end from Redcastle, but at the west end had to be transported from the Cumbræ; rubble was got at the one end from Clachnaharry and at the other from the north shore of Lochiel. The work excited interest as a national undertaking, though grumblings were naturally heard about the expenditure. At length, in 1818, navigation was allowed during summer on the Loch-Ness side, but was closed in November as a precaution against floods. In June 1820 a steamboat was placed on the route by Mr Henry Bell, to ply between Inverness and Fort-Augustus, and in October 1822 the Canal was opened from sea to sea, amidst general jubilation. The member for the County (the Right Hon. Charles Grant) and his father, with a party of gentlemen from town and county, travelled by the steamer on her first through voyage. There was a grand

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Mr Charles Grant, M.P., said, at the opening of the Canal, that the total labour and workmanship from October 1803 till May 1822 was £645,987 9s 0½d.

The Canal expenditure up till 1848 was £1,306,032 3s 5d, less £5,906 17s 9d in bank at 1st May of that year.—

Total	...	...	...	£1,306,032	3	5
Less	...	...	...	5,906	17	9
Net total	...	...	...	£1,300,125	17	9

It was originally intended to have raised Loch-Ness 6½ feet, but it was finished 2 feet short of this. (See Walker and Burgess' Report, June 1847).

dinner at Fort-William to celebrate the memorable occasion. The financial returns from the Canal have proved disappointing, but it has helped to make the Highlands accessible, and has made a beautiful route familiar to travellers from all parts of the world. During the time of its construction, the expenditure mitigated the poverty which might otherwise have proved serious in its effects.

Our period saw changes as great in the conveyance by sea as by land and canal. Mr James Suter mentions that in 1804 smacks began to ply regularly between Inverness and London, for the first seven years going once in three weeks, and afterwards once in ten days. The smacks called at Cromarty, and latterly seem to have started from that place. The time taken depended on the winds. The voyage seems sometimes to have lasted from ten to fourteen days. Mr Joseph Mitchell says he made the passage in a smack from Aberdeen in six days. Occasionally the voyage was much more expeditious. In February 1815, for instance, we are told that the Inverness Packet arrived at Burghead from Gravesend in the short space of seventy hours, having outstripped the mail by thirty-four hours. Steam navigation sprang up while the Canal was in progress, and the waterway, as we have seen, was utilised even before it was fully opened. The first steam vessel, the *Comet*, was placed on the Clyde by Henry Bell in 1812, and in the next ten years the new system of navigation came into general use. In December 1820, Sir Hugh Innes of Lochalsh made arrangements for the running of a steamboat between Glasgow and Kyleakin once a-week. It is recorded that she made her first voyage in 35 hours and 50 minutes, and the return voyage in 40 hours and 16 minutes, the latter in spite of heavy gales. In May 1821 a steamer was launched at Dumbarton to complete the connection with Inverness by way of Aberdeen. Thus almost at the same time the Highlands came into possession of a complete system of roads, of steam service by sea, and of the advantages of communication by the Caledonian Canal.

The rural economy of the Highlands underwent a vital change during the period under consideration. The abolition of heritable jurisdictions after the rising of 1745 changed the whole constitution of Highland society. Though it was absolutely necessary to take away the feudal powers which the chiefs possessed, the measure, from an economic point of view, had unfortunate effects. It was inevitable that under the new circumstances a commercial system should take the place of the patriarchal, but the change was too sudden and revolutionary. It must not, however, be forgotten that the occupancy of land in the Highlands at the time was essentially on an unsound basis. Tacksmen related in blood to the chief held considerable tracts at low rents, and sub-let to the body of the people, whose payments helped to support the middlemen in comfort. Cottars, with still smaller patches of soil, added to the numbers of the population. The time had now come when the presence of a large body of men was no longer necessary to support the dignity of a chief, and as proprietor his thoughts turned to the improvement of his rent-roll. The tacksmen resented the increased demands made upon them, and began to emigrate. During this state of friction farmers from the Southern counties came to the Highlands and offered large sums for land as sheep walks. The process began on the Glengarry estates in 1782, and went rapidly forward. Mr Fraser-Mackintosh says that in 1768 the rental of the Glengarry estates was only a little over £700, and in 1802 it had risen so enormously that it exceeded £5000. There was a large emigration from Knoydart in 1786, and another even larger in 1802. In the latter year three vessels sailed from Fort-William to Quebec, carrying with them hundreds of Highlanders, who were a great loss to the old country, but who enriched the land to which they went. In 1792 sheep-farming had spread to such an extent in the counties of Ross and Sutherland that it led to serious riots, the people attempting to drive the sheep away. This, however, did not stop the movement. The



authorities were strong, and the people, who were peaceful at heart, submitted, but with passionate protestations, which still evoke profound sympathy. In 1817 the Sheep and Wool Fair was established at Inverness. Up till this time and afterwards, in spite of eviction and emigration, the population continued to increase. It was stimulated, no doubt, by the growth of the kelp industry on the western seaboard and islands, which gave employment to many people, but which broke down just about the end of our period, and brought in a new element of distress. It must also be remembered that there were wide districts which were never cleared, and in which the old imperfect system of agriculture was gradually supplanted by newer methods. It was during the first quarter of the century that a real beginning was made with the improvement of cultivation.

There is a survey of the County of Inverness prepared for the Board of Agriculture in 1808 by Rev. Dr James Robertson, minister of Callander, in Perthshire, which contains many interesting particulars. Dr Robertson deplures and condemns the depopulation of districts caused by the extension of sheep-farming. He also lets us see what the old system was like. He thinks there was too great a gulf between the tacksmen and the small tenants. He says that the culture of the potato, which fifty years before was almost unkuown except in the gardens of the wealthy, had spread until it had become universal. He observes that one-half of the inhabitants of Scotland lived mainly on potatoes during eight or nine months in the year, and that the proportion so sustained was higher in the Highlands than in the rest of the country. The possibility of the crop failing did not strike him, as indeed at that time there was nothing to foreshadow such disaster. He states that the lower class of Highlanders lived in greater comfort and plenty than in any former generation. There was no necessity to bleed cattle in bad seasons to supplement the "pittance of meal." The housing of the great majority of the people was, however,

as bad generally as it still remains in some of the outer islands. The dwellings of the better class—the small minority—were comfortable, but all the rest were of the most miserable description. “The huts of the Indians bordering on the Lakes of St Lawrence,” says Dr Robertson, “cannot be worse in point of structure and accommodation.” A communication to a newspaper just beyond our present period supplies some curious particulars. The writer assumes the population of an ordinary Highland parish to be about 2000, and he says that three-fourths, or more nearly four-fifths, lived in black huts. He thinks there may be 500 huts in such a parish and 500 outhouses, making a total of 1000; and he puts the cost of erection at £12 a-piece, making a total value of £12,000. Improvement, however, was at work. The Highland Society of Scotland did much for agriculture by the offer of premiums, and local Farming Societies were established to promote the movement. On the part of the proprietors the difficulty of providing satisfactory houses and steadings for small holdings no doubt helped to bring about the enlargement of farms and the decrease of population.

Without attempting to describe the general condition of Highland agriculture in the olden time, concerning which much has been written elsewhere, it may be interesting to give a few further gleanings from Dr Robertson's survey. He speaks more than once of the number of horses kept by the small tenants before the introduction of sheep farming. These horses were allowed to roam the moors at large, and sent down in annual droves to the Lowlands for sale. They were of a poor kind, and in Dr Robertson's opinion not remunerative. “There is,” he says, “no species of bestial more useless or expensive than an idle horse. In Glenmoriston alone, a district of no great extent, a gentleman of veracity told me there had been 900 horses until very lately. In a fine meadow of a well-cultivated part of the country I reckoned six small horses grazing upon one farm.” Dr Robertson describes

the method of ferrying the cattle from Skye across the sound at Kylerhea. The animals were forced to swim. "For this purpose the drovers purchased ropes, which are cut at the length of three feet, having a noose at one end. This noose is put round the under-jaw of every cow, taking care to leave the tongue free. The reason given for leaving the tongue loose is that the animal may be able to keep the salt water from going down its throat in such a quantity as to fill all the cavities in the body, which would prevent the action of the lungs; for every beast is found dead, and said to be drowned at the landing-place, to which this mark of attention has not been paid." Each cow was tied to the tail of the cow before, forming a string of six or eight; and a man in the stern held the rope of the foremost cow. The most favourable passage was at high water, and very few beasts were lost. It is said that from 5000 to 8000 cattle were taken across in this fashion in course of the year. Dr Robertson condemns the practice of casting turf for fuel or for thatching, which spoilt the pasture ground. Ploughmakers and cartwrights had only recently settled in the low and central parts of the county. The late proprietor of Cantray was the first to introduce a thrashing mill driven by horses, having imported the machinery and tradesmen from Leith. The number of sheep in Inverness-shire in 1808 was reckoned at 50,000, having doubled in ten years. "The old indigenous sheep, which are small, fine-woolled, and altogether white, are still very numerous. The Linton breed, or those with black legs and faces, are the most prevalent. Stocks of Cheviot sheep are gaining ground, because their wool is much finer, and their carcass equally large with the Linton breed." At that time there was no regular deer forest in the county, except at Lochiel, though "there are straggling deer to be met with in almost every part of the mountainous districts."\* Dr Robertson

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\* The late Mr Macpherson, in his book on "Church and Social Life in the Highlands," gives extracts respecting the old deer forests from a paper written by Captain Lachlan Mac-

speaks very highly of the moral and law-abiding character of the people. "Single individuals travel unarmed, in all directions, through the Highlands, with thousands of pounds in their pockets, to purchase cattle, without dread or annoyance." Finally, we may quote the following passage relating to home industries:—

"The domestic manufacture of this county is very considerable, because upwards of sixty thousand of the inhabitants, out of a population of seventy-four thousand, may be said to be clothed by their home-spun and home-wrought stuffs of various kinds, excepting bonnets, handkerchiefs, and a few more articles for female, or Sunday's attire.

"The housewives, and their daughters, and servant-maids, are more industrious than one could suppose, in a country where the pastoral habits and employments still continue so much to prevail. Their cloths are woven by the country weavers, and dressed by the dyers in the neighbourhood. Their tartans and plaids are universally admired for fineness of fabric, brilliancy of colours, and the taste displayed in the variety of setts or patterns. This display of ingenuity and industry, is by no means confined to the common people. Many of the ladies of fortune understand the art of dyeing to great perfection, not only with respect to the more easy and cheap colours, but even as to the more delicate and vivid kinds, which they often execute full as lively and permanently as the most skilful and experienced dyers in the great towns. To enumerate all the instances of these thrifty habits would be endless. I shall mention only one or two, as a specimen of the rest. At a gentleman's house in Lochaber, I saw two hearthrugs of the most beautiful mixed colours; one dozen of chair-covers woven, and another dozen sewed by a stitch called vigo (well-known to ladies), having five different shades of green, four of red, three of purple, a black ground, with a yellow and white edging; all spun, and dyed, and sewed in the house. The whole drawing-room furniture, sofa and chair-covers, was of the same kind; sixteen carpets, of different patterns. The bed and table linen was countless; as also the blankets, which, in warmth and fabric, were equal, and in fineness, superior, to those sold in the great towns,

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pherson, "Old Biallid," who died in 1858. He says that at one time the deer forests possessed by the Earls of Huntly commenced at Ben Avon, in Banffshire, and terminated at Ben-Nevis, near Fort-William, a distance of seventy miles, without a break except for the estate of Rothiemurchus, about two miles in breadth. "No alteration took place until after the Rising of 1745, when the whole forests were let as grazings, except Gaick, which the Duke of Gordon continued as a deer forest until about the year 1788, when it was let as a sheep walk, and continued so until 1826, when the late Duke of Gordon (then Marquis of Huntly) re-established it." (See also pages 48 and 49 of this volume.)

under the name of being imported from the South. Shawls and gowns of twisted worsted, and tartans of the most lively colours, beautifully diversified, and various other articles, all spun and dyed in the family, under the inspection, and by direction of Mrs Cameron of Fassfern. In the opposite side of the county, Mrs Macpherson, at Mains of Ardersier, near Fort-George, besides many other articles of industry, which it might be thought tedious to enumerate in detail, sends every year to the bleaching between three and four hundred yards of linen, spun in her own house, from the flax raised by her husband."

It is curious to note that while the system of sheep-farming was extending, much alarm and lamentation were caused by the constant stream of emigration. One of the objects of the construction of the Caledonian Canal was to stop this movement. Mr Telford, in his report of 1802, says that about three thousand persons had left our shores in the previous year, and he was informed that three times that number were preparing to leave in course of the year in which he was writing. The men who were going were not without resources. "The very high price of black cattle," says Mr Telford, "has facilitated the means of emigration, as it has furnished the old farmers with a portion of capital which enables them to transport their families beyond the Atlantic." At the present day a passage to Canada or the States is an easy thing. At that time, however, the passage occupied from six weeks to two months, and was often accomplished in vessels ill-equipped with water and provisions. The tale is one on which no one cares to dwell.

There is a sentence in Lord Cockburn's Memorials which describes the warlike atmosphere of a protracted period. Of the peace of 1814 he says:—"Old men, but especially those in whose memories the American War ran into the French one, had only a dim recollection of what peace was; and middle-aged men knew it now for the first time." Even then there was still the final conflict to come with Napoleon, before the battle of Waterloo put an end to the clash of arms. During the wars the Highland regiments were winning those laurels which have made their names famous. For home defence there

were Fencible regiments, some Volunteers, regular militia, and latterly the Local Militia, instituted in 1808 and suspended in 1816. The Fencible regiments formed a home force in Scotland, raised by recruiting instead of by ballot, but the last of them were disbanded early in the nineteenth century. The Local Militia gathered into its ranks the greater part of the young manhood of the country, drawn by ballot between the ages of eighteen and thirty, each county being obliged to furnish a force of the kind six times as large as the regular militia quota. It is not surprising that with constant war abroad and periodical warlike training at home, the military spirit was dominant. In the newspapers of the time there are frequent references to the Local Militia. The Hon. Archibald Fraser of Lovat was Colonel of the 1st Inverness-shire regiment and Glengarry of the second; and authority was given to Highland battalions to wear the Highland dress as their uniform. Apparently this permission was granted on the application of Glengarry, who, whatever his faults, cherished an enthusiastic pride in the Highland name.

The practice of illicit distillation became exceedingly prevalent during the period with which we are dealing. About the year 1814 two causes operated to increase the practice to an enormous degree. The first was the passing of an Act which prohibited the use of stills of less capacity than 500 gallons, a measure which served as a complete interdict to legal distilling in the Highlands. The second and more permanent cause was the distress which set in after 1815, owing to the fall in agricultural prices at the close of the war. Matters then became so serious that the county authorities petitioned Government to legalise the use of small stills. This was conceded in 1816, stills of 40 gallons capacity being allowed, and the duty reduced. But the new Act was surrounded by so many restrictions that the distilleries which were established failed to become successful. The legal distiller was obliged to make his wash of a specific strength, and

to pay duty on a specific quantity of spirits, whether he was able to extract the required amount or not. In point of fact, he was required to produce one-fourth or one-fifth more than the smuggler, and so it was true that smuggled whisky was at that time better in quality than the whisky legally distilled. It was not until 1823 that a new Act was passed which conceded more liberal regulations, and allowed distillers to warehouse spirits without payment of duty. Accordingly, the year 1823 saw both the climax in smuggling and the turn in the tide.

When smuggling was at its height the whole Highland district was involved in it, from east to west and from north to south. Bands of men carried the product of their stills through the glens on ponies, and often resisted the officers of the law. The military had to be called in to help the Excise. The late Mr Joseph Mitchell mentions that one morning when, as a young man, he was driving up Glenmoriston before breakfast, he met twenty-five Highland ponies tied to each other, carrying two kegs of whisky apiece, and attended by ten or twelve men armed with bludgeons. They looked at Mr Mitchell with suspicion, but at length one of them said to his companion, "You need not mind; it is the son of Mitchell, the man of the high roads" (his father being superintendent under Telford), and they treated him to a dram. During the same period quantities of wines and foreign spirits were smuggled in from Holland. Under date of December 1821, the "Courier" contains an account of a strange case which was tried at a Justice of Peace Court at Inverness. The shoremaster had been accommodating enough to bury in his garden eighteen kegs of gin which the skipper of a smack had picked up at sea, and moreover, to ensure concealment, had planted cabbages over the spot. The kegs having been discovered, the culprits were prosecuted, but they pleaded that the gin was flotsam, that the statute allowed them twenty-four hours to give notice to the Excise, and that the officers had made their seizure before the expiry of this period of grace. The Court

actually accepted the plea, and the defenders had the audacity to give notice that they intended to raise an action against the Excise officers for illegal detention of the vessel. It is not likely that the action ever came off.

Naturally there were great complaints as to the demoralising character of smuggling. The community was infected with it from top to bottom. Farmers found a market and obtained a better price for their grain through the illicit traffic; landowners secured higher rents; the people generally obtained cheaper whisky. At a Justice of Peace Court at Inverness in 1823, no fewer than 400 persons from the districts of the Aird, Strathglass, and Urquhart were fined for illicit distillation or for selling spirits without a licence. In the same year there were 14,000 detections in the Highlands for breaches of the Excise laws. The Act of that year helped to improve matters, assisted by the spread of education and the influence of the clergy. But much was likewise due to the increased activity and determination of the Excise, and the enforcement of high penalties. The Justices had been in the habit of imposing fines much below the minimum authorised by law. At the time of the passing of the new Act, however, the authorities resolutely demanded that the minimum of £20 should be imposed, otherwise six months' imprisonment. The Justices demurred, and some of them talked of resigning. They were not aware of the resources of the Department. In a prosecution in Banffshire, when the Justices proved obstinate, the Excise transferred the cases to the Court of Exchequer, which subjected the offenders to penalties varying from £100 to £500 a-piece. This seems to have broken down the opposition, and the enforcement of stiff penalties by local Justices proved a deterrent to the smugglers. In 1834 the number of detections had fallen to 692.

The Church of Scotland at this time held almost undisputed sway in the Highlands, except for the Catholic and Episcopalian sections of the population. There was



very little dissent of any other kind; only a few small congregations founded under special circumstances. The Church was earnest in its work, both in the religious and educational fields. The people out of their poverty contributed freely to such objects as were brought before them. For instance, there was a Northern Missionary Society founded in 1800, which raised in twenty-two years about £3000 for missionary purposes, and had by no means at that date come to an end of its career. In 1823 a sum of £50,000 was granted by Government for providing additional places of worship in the Highlands and Islands. By the erection of churches and manse this sum made provision for over forty additional ministers, whose services were appreciated in the wide rural parishes. In the matter of education the Gaelic-speaking population was very backward. But there was constant effort for improvement. In 1811 a Gaelic School Society was established in Edinburgh; in 1818 a Society for the education of the poor was formed at Inverness. In a report which the latter Society issued in 1825, it is calculated that in the Hebrides and other western parts of Inverness and Ross, 70 persons in the hundred could not read; in the mainland parts of the Northern Highlands, 40 in the hundred. According to the same report, there was in the western district only one copy of the Bible for every eight persons above the age of eight years, and in other districts only one copy for three persons. In 1825 the General Assembly appointed a Committee for the purpose of increasing the means of education and religious instruction. From this step great benefit accrued. The Bible Societies also gave valuable assistance in providing Gaelic Bibles.

There are several names that frequently occur in the annals of the Highlands in the early part of the century. The two Charles Grants, father and son, exercised in succession great influence as members of Parliament from 1802 until 1835. Other distinguished persons took a leading part in the social life of the country, either as

residents or occasional visitors. The Northern Meeting then, as now, was the culminating point of the Highland season. The famous Lady Jane, Duchess of Gordon, was a prominent patron of this assembly, supported by her son, the Marquis of Huntly, and by one or other of those daughters who had made such brilliant marriages. The Duchess delighted to spend the autumn at Kinrara, enjoying a simple Arcadian life after the toils of London society. Miss Elizabeth Grant of Rothiemurchus, afterwards Mrs Smith of Baltiboy, describes the unpretending accommodation and the frank enjoyment of hostess and visitors. "Half the London world of fashion, all the clever people that could be hunted out from all parts, all the north country, all the neighbourhood from far and near, without regard to wealth or station, and all the kith and kin of both Gordons and Maxwells, flocked to this encampment in the wilderness during the fine autumns to enjoy the free life, the pure air, and the wit and fun the Duchess brought with her to the mountains." Mrs Smith also says that Lord Huntly was the life of social gatherings. "He was young, gay, handsome, fond of his mother, and often with her; and so general a favourite that all the people seemed to wake up when he came amongst them." The Duchess died in London in April 1812, and her remains were brought North by her son, and interred in a sequestered spot chosen by herself not far from Kinrara House. The Marquis was the last of his line. He married in 1813 Elizabeth Brodie, daughter of Brodie of Arnhall, but without issue. In 1827, on the death of his father, he succeeded to the dukedom, and to an encumbered property. Before his death in 1836 he had to part with Lochaber and a portion of his Badenoch estates. The late Dr Carruthers, in his *Highland Notebook*, gives the following interesting reminiscences of the closing days of the "gay and gallant Marquis" after he had become Duke of Gordon:—

"There certainly never was a better chairman of a festive party. He could not make a set speech; and on one occa-

sion when Lord Liverpool asked him to move or second an address at the opening of a session of Parliament, he gaily replied that he would undertake to please all their lordships if they adjourned to the City of London Tavern, but he could not undertake to do the same in the House of Lords. He excelled in short, unpremeditated addresses, which were always lively and to the point. We heard him once on an occasion which would have been a melancholy one in any other hands. He had been compelled to sell the greater part of his property in the district of Badenoch, to lessen the pressure of his difficulties, and emancipate himself, in some measure, from legal trustees. The gentlemen of the district resolved, before parting with their noble landlord, to invite him to a public dinner in Kingussie. A piece of plate, or some other mark of regard, would perhaps have been more apropos, and less painful in its associations; but the dinner was given and received. Champagne flowed like water; the Highlanders were in the full costume of the mountains, and great excitement prevailed. When the Duke stood up, his tall, graceful form slightly stooping with age, and his grey hairs shading his smooth, bald forehead, with a general's broad riband across his breast, the thunders of applause were like a warring cataract or mountain torrent in flood. Tears sparkled in his eyes, and he broke out with a hasty acknowledgment of the honours paid to him; he alluded to the time when he roamed their hills in youth, gathering recruits among their mountains for the service of his country—to the strong attachment which his departed mother entertained for every cottage and family among them—and to his own affection for the Highlands, which he said was as firm and lasting as the Rock of Cairngorm, which he was still proud to possess. The latter was a statement of fact: in the sale of the property the Duke had stipulated for retaining that wild mountain range called the Cairngorm Rocks. The effect of this short and feeling speech—so powerful is the language of nature and genuine emotion—was as strong as the most finished oration could produce.”

On the death of the nobleman who figures in this pathetic scene, the entailed estates—still a splendid patrimony—went to the Duke of Richmond, the grandson of Duchess Jane by her eldest daughter. The ancient title was revived in 1876, and the present venerable peer holds the honours of Duke of Richmond and Gordon.

There were other three great proprietors who occupied a prominent place, and who experienced their share of human troubles. The last Earl of Seaforth was a man of marked ability, whose mental endowments triumphed over the defects of deafness and imperfect speech. But he lived during a lavish period, and he was, at least for a time, a member of the extravagant circle which gathered

round the Prince Regent. He was also involved in West Indian plantations which proved unprofitable. So his property became embarrassed, and part of it had to be sold. His four sons predeceased him, the last two dying in 1813 and 1814; and Lord Seaforth himself, broken in heart, passed away in the beginning of 1815, leaving the estates that remained to a widowed daughter. The Hon. Archibald Fraser of Lovat, the last surviving son of the famous Lord Simon, was a careful and attentive business man, who managed his affairs with credit and success. He was proud of his Highland descent, and assisted the Duke of Montrose in getting rid of the law which prohibited the wearing of the Highland dress. But in his case also his sons, five in all, predeceased him. The eldest son, the last of the family, represented the County of Inverness in Parliament from 1796 until 1802. By his death the deed of entail came into operation which secured the succession to the Strichen branch of the family. The Hon. Archibald Fraser died in the same year as Lord Seaforth, 1815, but at an interval of eleven months. The third of these conspicuous proprietors was Macdonell of Glengarry, who succeeded to a fine inheritance, and squandered it away. His ambition was to be a Highland Chief of the olden time, so far as that could be attained under modern conditions. Glengarry moved about with a body of retainers, which constituted his "tail." He was always eager for a leading place among his contemporaries. Though he possessed talent and many kindly qualities, his overbearing temper led him repeatedly into difficulties, and his careless expenditure far exceeded his income. The estates were deeply involved before his death in 1828, and after his time they passed from the family. Many other Highland families, who were less prominent before the world, transmitted their estates unimpaired to their successors.

To come to the town of Inverness. A public-spirited Provost, William Inglis of Kingsmills, died in 1801. He was a merchant and banker, and is characterised by Mr

James Suter as the most useful Magistrate the town ever possessed till that date, "the founder of its finest buildings, and some of its most valuable institutions, and for thirty years the chief promoter of its improvements." Among the most influential men who succeeded him were Mr Gilzean, Mr Grant of Bught, and Dr Robertson of Aultnaskiach. Mr Gilzean was a pluralist, being sheriff, collector of customs, and distributor of stamps, and yet able to hold office as Provost. He is said to have left a fortune of from £50,000 to £60,000, which was a large sum for those days, especially in a town like Inverness. Mr Grant has been described as a "kindly man of dignified manners," who promoted social intercourse, and was personally popular. Dr Robertson seems to have been the ablest and most public-spirited of the three, but as time went on he became identified with the party which resisted the demand for reform, and so lost some of his popularity. A curious incident in the history of the burgh was the suspension of its "set" or constitution, which took place in 1818, and lasted for several years. According to the constitution, Councillors and Magistrates were to be residenters, "and actually trafficking merchants or maltmen." Objection was taken that one Councillor and two Bailies were neither trafficking merchants nor maltmen. The Corporation pleaded usage, but rather than incur the expense of appearing before the Court of Session in Edinburgh, they allowed judgment to go against them. Those who defended the practice which had crept into existence contended that the objection was an attempt to narrow the constitution of the burgh; that to confine the qualifications to the classes specifically mentioned was a retrograde step. There was obvious truth in this view, but doubtless there were personal feelings at the bottom of the quarrel, and a desire to overthrow what was regarded by the objectors as a local autocracy. The Court of Session disapproved of the application, though they felt bound to give effect to the technical objection. The election of a member of Parlia-

ment for the Burghs was in the hands of the Town Councils, which practically meant the Provosts, and the selection really rested alternately with the Provost of Inverness and the Provost of Forres. It is not surprising that these gentlemen were loth to relinquish a privilege which conferred upon them both influence and patronage. When Robert Grant, a younger son of Charles Grant, got notice to quit from the representation before the Reform Act of 1832, it was generally believed that a question of local patronage was as much the cause of his dismissal as the divergence of his political views from those of the local magnates of the day.

In the early part of the century the town consisted of little more than the streets which now form its centre—High Street, Bridge Street, Church Street, Castle Street, and New Street (or Academy Street), with a humble off-shoot at East Gate. In Home's map of 1774 the west side consists of a few blocks of building going as far down as about the present Greig Street Bridge. There was then a wide open space occupied chiefly by what is called the Red Yard, and after that a few more houses about the Green of Muirtown. An old channel of the river—but not the main channel—appears at the Abban. There is a road shown running across the mouth of this channel and down to Kessock, the only road to Kessock in those days. Behind the road, marking the old channel, are the words, "Stones called Bowbridge"; and behind this again an open space bearing the words on the map, "a salt water lake called the Nabon." The land running part of the way alongside consists of enclosures called Dalnabon, and the road to Beaully is traced between Dalnabon and high-water mark. The Centenarian says that in his boyhood, say about 1765, there were only fifteen "smokes" and eight small windows, with the exception of Phopachy House, between the Blue House and Kessock Ferry. Improvement had set in before the end of the eighteenth century, due in no small measure, as the writer of the Old Statistical Account says, to the great influx of money

from the East and West Indies, and to the establishment of factories. The Northern Meeting Rooms were erected in 1790; the Royal Academy and the Jail and Court-House in Bridge Street, in 1791. In 1796 the principal streets were levelled and paved, and Clachnacudain—the Stone of the Tubs—was removed from the centre of High Street to a place under the Cross. In 1798 the Chapel of Ease, now the U.F. East Church, was built. In 1800 the Castle Hill was enclosed by a wall; in 1803 the Northern Infirmary was erected, and the same year the lands of Merkinch were feued. In 1808 the Wooden Bridge was erected, and next year an embankment was formed between that point and Douglas Row. In 1812 the Head of Church Street was widened, and Geddes's building was erected, apparently the fine block opposite the Exchange. In 1813 the embankment of the town lands at the Longman was completed, and in 1815 the Thornbush Pier was built and the Harbour deepened. These particulars are given in James Suter's *Memorabilia*.

The old stone bridge (destroyed by the flood of 1849) was a fine feature in the town, described by Telford as the handsomest old bridge in Great Britain. The remains of the old Castle are shown in a picture of 1820, but they disappeared during the next few years, the stones probably forming a quarry for other buildings. The Centenarian says that the roads north and south of the bridge were carried out under the direction of Provost Robertson, who also widened the west end of Bridge Street at his own expense, removing the turnpike stairs in front and setting back his property. The work appears to have been carried out in the winter of 1816 and 1817, during a period of severe distress in the town. A contemporary notice says that "elegant and commodious roads have been made on both banks of the river, and extensive footpaths have been formed, which certainly add much to the comfort and to the health of the inhabitants." Part of these improvements was the Ladies' Walk on the river-

bank, which derived its name from the fact that it was made at the expense of some generous ladies. In the winter of 1817 the walk was injured by a flood, and some person or persons who had made a bet on the result of the burgh Parliamentary election and won it, applied the proceeds to the repair of the path. Telford Street was built for the accommodation of engineers and superintendents during the construction of the Canal. In 1818 a new line of road was constructed from this street to the town. "The present entrance in that direction," we are informed, "passes through all the filth of the Green of Muirtown, which is by far the most disagreeable and irregular access to the town; the new entrance will pass directly from the line of elegant buildings in Telford Street through the field on the north of the hovels on the Green, by Wells's Foundry, to the fine embankment lately built on the west side of the river." The land was given free of charge by Mr Duff of Muirtown; and it is stated that few persons had done more than this gentleman for the improvement of the neighbourhood. There were, as has been said, factories in the town for tanning, thread-making, bleaching, dyeing, and making cloth, but they were not permanently successful. The fuel mostly used was peat and wood; coal only by the well-to-do classes. Mr Joseph Mitchell, who was born in 1803, and passed his boyhood in the town, says that some of the houses were of considerable size, with turnpikes and pepper boxes outside; but Petty Street, the Maggot, and the west side of the river consisted mainly of huts. A stream of water ran across Church Street from School Lane, and was turned into a drain in 1818.

In the year 1800, Dr John Leyden passed through the town of Inverness during the tour of which the *Journal* has recently been published. He says that he "beheld indeed very little that is not to be seen in every town"; also that "it contains some elegant buildings, but no regular streets or squares of neat houses." This negative account shows at least that there was nothing to call forth



the travellers' special animadversion. "Many of the houses," he adds, "are of considerable antiquity, and have the arms of some Highland chieftain sculptured on a large slab inserted in the wall, from having been the town houses of these chieftains in feudal times." Leyden climbed Craig-Phadrick, and continues—"The finest view of Inverness is from the eminence above Muirtown as you ascend Craig-Phadrick, one of the eminences of that ridge which conceals the Fraser country, or Aird. Here the apparent regularity of the arrangement and elegance of the structures greatly exceeds reality." The entry is dated at Nairn, September 11th, and Leyden's appreciation may have been chilled by the mists which led him, as he says, to abandon his proposed journey to Ross-shire. Dr Macculloch, whose *Tour* was published in 1824, and who was not given to enthusiasm, is much more appreciative. He waxes eloquent in describing the beauty of the situation, and calls Inverness itself "a clean town and a good-looking town," adding that "it possesses the best and the civilest and cheapest inns in Scotland." We may fairly say that at the beginning of the nineteenth century the town was not behind other county towns in Scotland, and had advantages over many of them, due to its position and surroundings. Since then, in outward appearance and in the character of its buildings, it has kept pace with any community in the land. Indeed, it has been rebuilt to such an extent that, in spite of its ancient history, Inverness as it stands is essentially modern. It only remains for its people to maintain the enterprise which their fathers in their day exhibited, and thus to keep up the march of improvement which so far has not failed.



# THE NORTH

IN THE

## NINETEENTH CENTURY

No. I.



THE changes that have occurred in the North of Scotland during the century which has just closed will be understood in some detail by those who follow the chronicle now begun. It is our hope to be able to proceed with the annals of the North, so as to form an index to the principal events of the century in the Highlands. This work cannot be completed without occasional breaks, but it will be kept in view and carried out as circumstances permit. A bare index, though useful, would be comparatively dull, and we therefore give in most instances short paragraphs, including some not important in themselves, but interesting as illustrating the life or habits of the period.

For the first six and a-half years of the century, we have been obliged to fall back on the late Mr James Suter's Memorabilia, which consist of short notes of events of public interest. From the 7th of August 1807, we have the guidance of the "Inverness Journal," and shall follow its files until the foundation of the "Courier" in 1817. Our file of the "Journal" is not absolutely complete, but some of the missing numbers have already been placed at our disposal, and the other few blanks may be filled. The publisher of the "Journal," Mr John Young, printer and bookseller, issued several works in Gaelic and English, including a handsome edition of Macpherson's Ossian. "Mr Young is said to have conducted the 'Journal' himself for a little time, but early in its career the editorial chair was taken by David Carey, a native of Arbroath, who discharged the duties for nearly five years. Carey was an author of considerable versatility and ability—a poet, novelist,

and successful pamphleteer. While in Inverness he published a volume of poems, printed by Mr Young, 'Craig-Phadrick,' &c. : Inverness, 1810. This volume is now chiefly valuable for the notes to the piece Craig-Phadrick, containing as they do much information on the early history of Inverness. In connection with the 'Journal,' it may be mentioned that a younger son of Mr Young's, Murdo Young, was long editor and latterly proprietor of the 'London Sun' and 'True Sun' newspapers." (From Bibliography by the late John Noble in *Scottish Notes and Queries*. April 1888.)

At the beginning of the century the means of communication were exceedingly limited. In 1804 smacks were established to run once in three weeks between Inverness and London. It was in 1806 that the first regular coach began to run to Perth by the Highland Road, but it seems for a time, though only for a short time, to have been discontinued. The Acts of Parliament for the construction of the Caledonian Canal and the making of roads and bridges were passed in 1803, and for years afterwards work was plentiful throughout the Highlands. It will be observed that emigration was going on, apparently against the wish of public men, if we may judge from the expression of opinion given below. The sad fate of a large party of emigrants from the north coast is chronicled by the "Journal."

*From James Suter's Memorabilia.*

- 1800.—A keen contest took place for the representation of the County between A. Forbes of Culloden, S. Fraser, yr. of Lovat, and Charles Grant, when Mr Grant was returned, and continued to be member until 1819, when his son, the Right Hon. C. Grant, succeeded him.
- Ibid.—Sunday Schools first established in the town by Charles Grant.
- Ibid.—Episcopal Chapel built. Expense, £700, defrayed by subscriptions and a loan of £200.
- Ibid.—A fund of £675 raised by voluntary subscriptions for relief of the poor.
- Ibid.—The Castle Hill enclosed with a wall.
- Ibid.—Northern Missionary Society begun. [1822. This institution has collected at Inverness and Tain, since its commencement, about £3000 of voluntary contributions.]
- 1801.—A large quantity of gunpowder exploded in the centre of the town, by which seven persons were killed and many others wounded.

- Almost all the houses in the middle of the town were injured and had their windows shattered on this occasion.
- Ibid.—The first public nursery garden in this place formed, viz., the Telford Street one.
- Ibid.—In this year died William Inglis of Kingsmills, merchant and banker, a native of the town and Provost of the Burgh, the ablest and most useful Magistrate it had ever possessed, the founder of its finest public buildings and of some of its most valuable institutions, and for 30 years the chief promoter of all its improvements.
- 1802.—Regular cattle markets commenced at the Island.
- 1803.—A chapel erected by the Seceder congregation. [In 1820 this was converted into a Roman Catholic Chapel.]
- Ibid.—Acts of Parliament passed for cutting the Caledonian Canal, and for making roads and building bridges in the Highlands of Scotland.
- Ibid.—The lands of Merkinch first fenced out for building.
- Ibid.—The Northern Infirmary opened for the reception of patients. Expense of building, £5000. Annual expenditure, about £700 a-year. The whole defrayed by voluntary contributions, chiefly parochial.
- 1804.—Smacks begin to ply successfully at fixed days to and from London. At first the period of succession was once in three weeks. [In 1814 it became one in ten days.] In 1770 vessels arrived from London only once in four or five weeks, and even these were very small; and at the same period the communication with Leith was not more frequent. At present the voyage to Leith is at least once in ten days.
- Ibid.—Sasso Ferrato's valuable picture of the Holy Family (bequeathed to the town by James Clark, of Naples, a native of Inverness) was placed in the hall of the Academy.
- 1805.—Theatre built. This building was the speculation of a private individual.
- Ibid.—Inverness-shire Farmer Society formed for the improvement of agriculture. [There was no meeting of this Society for many years previous to the spring of 1821, when it was revived.]
- Ibid.—The interest of a sum of £1500, bequeathed by Bailie Thomas Young, to be paid yearly to the poor and placed under the management of the Kirk Session.
- Ibid.—First iron foundry commenced.
- 1806.—First regular coach to Perth by the Highland road. Mr Suter adds—This coach was soon discontinued, and the present useful establishment was then projected.

ibid.—Poor's Coal Fund begun. Collected chiefly at the church doors. Mr Suter notes that from the time this fund was started until the time he wrote (1822) £680 had been paid into it.

ibid.—Buildings of Telford Street begun.

1807.—Gunpowder magazine built at the Longman. Expense, £250, paid by the Burgh.

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*From the "Inverness Journal."*

1807.

The dates at the beginning of each paragraph are the dates of issue of the paper, not of the events chronicled.

August 7, 1807.—On this date was issued the first number of the "Inverness Journal." It bears the imprint as publisher of John Young, bookseller, Inverness, and the price was sixpence per copy, by subscription £1 7s 6d per annum. The paper was issued weekly on Friday. It consists of a well-printed sheet of four pages, five columns to a page. The first leading article begins by referring to the progress that had been made in recent years in all the useful arts in the Northern Counties. "The face of Nature has, by the exertions of some discerning and spirited individuals, happily assumed a different aspect, and new channels of industrious occupation have been opened for the surplus population of the County." The writer trusts "it will be readily admitted that the value of these blessings may be enhanced and more fully appreciated by a more extended knowledge of their nature and effects; and that few sources of general information are better calculated for the attainment of this desirable object than a well-conducted newspaper. Interested," the writer continues, "in everything that relates to the prosperity of a district of country to which we lie under so many obligations, it shall be our earnest desire to introduce into the 'Inverness Journal' every topic that may tend to its improvement and advantage." The number is well advertised, chiefly with sales of timber and farms to let. One of the news paragraphs states that a bill has just been passed by the Legislature authorising the distillers in Scotland hereafter to commence working on the 10th of November in each year, instead of the first of October; the date being more convenient than the other with respect to the harvest, the providing of cattle, hiring of servants, &c. A communication appears from Sir George Mackenzie of Coul giving the results

of experiments with vaccination on members of his own family. He expresses the conviction that "cowpox, when properly managed, is a perfect safeguard against the most loathsome and pestilential disease to which the human frame is subject."

August 14.—The Inverness-shire Farmer Society met on 7th inst., when office-bearers were elected, the Hon. A. Fraser of Lovat being President, and Mr John Young, bookseller, secretary. The Society met quarterly. The subject set down for discussion at the November meeting was "What is the best rotation of crops for land that has been limed?"

August 21.—Majority of the eldest son of the Marquis and Marchioness of Stafford celebrated on 8th inst. A company of 60 dined at Dornoch, Lord Reay in the chair. "Two companies of the Sutherland Volunteers attended and fired volleys after each of the leading toasts." Other five companies of the battalion were entertained on the Links of Golspie. There was another battalion, the companies of which were entertained in Lord Reay's county and in Assynt.

Ibid.—"Died here, on the 9th curt., Mr Thomas Hossack, officer of Excise. He was stationed in this place for upwards of 30 years, a circumstance which affords the best proof of his integrity as an officer and of his good conduct as a member of society."

August 28.—Memoir of Colonel Patrick Macleod, of the 78th, who fell commanding a detachment stationed at El Hermet in Egypt to cover the Siege of Rosetta. He was the second son of Donald Macleod of Geanies, Sheriff-Depute of the County of Ross. The memoir is continued through several issues.

Ibid.—"The Highland Society of London have sent Mr Alexander Stewart, the editor of a recent collection of Gaelic poems, on a tour through the Highlands for the purpose of collecting such fragments as are still extant of the poetry, music, and historical tales of the ancient Caledonians. An inquiry into the topography of the dominions of Fingal; of the places of birth, residence, and interment of the Invincible Chief, his warriors, and bards; of the scenes of their exploits; together with the remains of their buildings, tumuli, &c., form also a part of his mission."

September 17.—Thomas Gilzean elected Provost.

October 2.—Duncan Munro, on 26th inst., elected Provost of Fortrose. "After the election Sir Alexander Munro, late Provost, came forward in the most handsome manner, and tendered to the Magistrates and Council £50 sterling

to assist in defraying the expense of pipes lately laid for supplying the inhabitants with water.”

Ibid.—At the Circuit Court, held on 29th ult., several persons were tried for assaulting Revenue officers, and were sentenced to imprisonment. The following case is also recorded:—“James Hogg and others, residents in Cromarty, were indicted for riotously obstructing the funeral of a person who they supposed had been guilty of suicide, and assaulting the persons attending the funeral. But his lordship, being of opinion that this was a matter more proper to be taken cognisance of by the Sheriff of the County than for trial before the Circuit Court, he remitted the case to the Sheriff of Ross and Cromarty, with power to him to proceed therein.”

October 9.—Foundation-stone laid of the bridge across the river Conon, near Dingwall. The ceremony was performed by Sir Hector Mackenzie, attended by a number of the gentlemen of the neighbourhood, and the Dingwall Volunteers.

Ibid.—Sir Charles Ross of Balnagown elected Provost of Tain. Sir John Sinclair of Ulster elected Provost of Wick.

Ibid.—“On Tuesday, 29th ult., an animal resembling a tiger cat found its way into a house in Invermoriston, which being observed by a woman of the house, who instantly gave the alarm, he sprang towards her with the greatest ferocity, at least sixteen feet, but was prevented from doing her injury by three men who pursued and killed him. A leather collar, with an iron chain about eight inches long, was found round his neck. It is supposed to be the same animal which recently made his escape from Brahan, and is said to have done considerable mischief.”

Ibid.—A Caithness correspondent writes as follows:—“With so many incitements to industry and the means of employment afforded by the Caledonian Canal and other public works now carrying on in the North of Scotland, it might naturally be expected that the rage for emigration among the Highlanders should be repressed, if not altogether extinguished. Yet it is to be regretted that within these few days a ship was cleared out of the Custom-house of Thurso for Pictou, in America, with a number of families of these deluded people, consisting of 130 persons in men, women, and children, none of whom were under the necessity of leaving their native country.” The Editor adds—“Most criminal infatuation! that can thus lead men to migrate from their native homes into a state of voluntary banishment,



- peril, and toil the most laborious, to a country where they have not only to toil, but to make the field, the half of which exertion and labour would have made the country they thus abandon pregnant with every blessing." (See below.)
- Ibid.—The following obituary notices appear :—  
"Died, at Nairn, on the 7th curt., Alexander Hay, Esq., depute-lieutenant, and captain of Volunteers in Nairnshire. His merit alone raised him to the most respectable situation in that county, and afforded him the exercise of a mind truly benevolent. He is much and will be long regretted.—"Died, at Montego Bay, Jamaica, on the 10th July, Thomas Carnaby, there, son of William Carnaby, merchant in Forres; beloved, respected, and regretted by all who knew him."
- October 16 and 23.—Notices of the Northern Meeting, which began on Monday, 12th inst., and lasted for the week. It is noted that the Duchess of Gordon was not present, and that Lord Seaforth, who had been unwell, was not sufficiently recovered to attend.
- October 30.—"A few days ago at a marriage in Kirkhill, the mother of the bridegroom, who was 96 years old, was so elevated on the occasion that she sang and danced, and entertained the company with 80 years old stories, and would have no other music than the Highland bagpipe, which she said was always the music that Lord Lovat and the lairds of her day danced to on similar occasions."
- November 6.—Very heavy rains, causing floods, and corn carried away. From the scarcity of fodder and general failure of the turnip crop, black cattle had become of little value. "A tolerable milk cow may be had for from three to four pounds." A storm followed of great severity.
- November 13.—Heavy fall of snow and intense frost. Harvest not all gathered in.
- Ibid.—Proposal to obtain Royal Charter for the Northern Association of Gentlemen Farmers and Breeders of Sheep, to extend to the counties of Inverness, Ross, Sutherland, and Caithness.
- Ibid.—The Inverness Farmer Society, on previous Friday, held a ploughing match at Drakies. Fifteen ploughs competed. "The first premium was assigned to James Elliot, servant to Mr Fraser-Tytler of Aldourie; the second to Murdoch Macgregor, servant to Mr Shaw at Holm; the third to John Macbean, servant to Mr Mackintosh of Holm; and the fourth to Gordon Watson, also servant to Mr Fraser-Tytler. It may be mentioned as worthy of notice that the plough used by Murdoch Mac-

gregor was made by himself, though he never was bred to the cart-wright business."

Ibid.—"Died, at the Manse of Dyke, on the 6th ult., the Rev. John Dunbar, in the 71st year of his age and 45th of his ministry."

November 20.—Notice of the erection of a pier at Broadford, Skye, through the spirited exertions of Lord Macdonald.

Ibid.—"The large and beautiful basin of the Caledonian Canal has for some time been frozen over, and has afforded a delightful field of exercise and amusement to skaters."

Ibid.—"The total number of roads now formed and forming in the Highlands amount to forty, containing nearly one thousand miles of extent." Passages from the annual report of the Commission of Roads and Bridges appeared in several issues before this date.

December 25.—"The estate of Cradlehall, consisting of ninety acres arable, fifty-seven acres young planting, and nine acres pasture, which was advertised for sale in this paper, at the upset price of £4275 10s, has been purchased by Charles Grant, Esq., M.P., for £7950. Its commanding situation and other natural advantages render it capable of being made a most delightful place of residence. This property was originally a pendicle of the lands of Castlehill, which were purchased in the year 1788 for £9000; and it may not be deemed unworthy of remark that the whole except two lots, valued at £12,000, has been sold for the sum of £44,000, so that this estate, without having undergone any material improvement, has been enhanced upwards of six times in 20 years."

Ibid.—A correspondent at Thurso communicated the following distressing intelligence:—"We have just received the melancholy accounts of the loss of the brig *Rambler*, of Leith, James Norris, master, cleared out at this port in September last for Pictou with emigrants. They left Stromness the 1st of October, and on the 29th of the same month were totally wrecked near the Bay of Bulls, in Newfoundland. When the ship left this port she had on board 130 passengers; the crew consisted of 14 seamen, besides the Captain and Surgeon. Of these, the only survivors are three passengers, the second mate, and four seamen; so that, melancholy to relate, 138 persons have perished on this unfortunate voyage."

Ibid.—"The King has been pleased to present the Rev. David Brichan, Doctor in Divinity, to the Church of the united parishes of Dyke and Moy, vacant by the death of Mr John Dunbar, late minister there."

## No. II.

There are several items of interest in connection with the year 1808. The first incident recorded is the finding of a silver chain at Torvean by the labourers engaged at the construction of the Caledonian Canal. The chain, it will be observed, was found in the end of 1807, not in 1809 as generally stated. Five such chains have been found in Scotland, and none elsewhere. They are all now in the Museum of the Society of Antiquaries in Edinburgh. The Inverness chain is the largest. The original description quoted below says it weighed 104 ounces; Dr Joseph Anderson, the careful and accurate curator of the Museum, gives its weight at 92½ ounces. "Each link," he says, "is a solid bar of silver, hammered round and bent circularly till the ends come close together." A second chain of the same kind has been found at Parkhill, in the parish of New Machar, Aberdeenshire; a third at Whiteclench, in the parish of Crawfordjohn, Lanarkshire; a fourth at Hordwell, in Berwickshire; and the fifth at Haddington. On two of the chains (Parkhill and Whiteclench) are symbols of the kind found on the Sculptured Stones of Scotland. They belong, apparently, to early Christian times. It is, perhaps, worthy of note that the Inverness chain was found "in the side of a large flat cairn." The flat near Torvean was formerly known as Kilvean, the hill and the plain thus taking their name from some early saint.

The winter of 1807-8 was intensely severe. Fodder became very scarce, and many black cattle died. As late as April 29th "the internal parts of the country" were completely covered with snow, and the Highland road was blocked. An examination of the newspaper files shows that the social condition of Scotland was much worse than at present. Cases of theft and robbery were more frequent, and there were two murders at Tain. The military spirit of the country, fostered by the war with France, was very active. Battalions of Militia and Volunteers met at stated times for drill, and underwent careful inspection.

Among the most active officers in the North in connection with these local movements were the Hon. Archibald Fraser of Lovat, Donald Macleod of Geanies, Sheriff-Depute of Ross-shire, and Lieut.-Colonel Rose of Kilravock.

It will be seen that the Town Council of 1808 had among its members no fewer than four ex-Provosts—an unusual distinction, we imagine, even in the period of close burgh corporations. The congregation of the Nairn Parish Church had a narrow escape from serious disaster owing to the unsafe condition of the building, which must have formed a striking contrast to the present handsome edifice. In those days the Northern Meeting was held at a somewhat later date than now, and in October 1808, the Marquis of Huntly, who was a prominent member, rode all the way from Aberdeen to Inverness in less than seven hours. Readers will see what assistance was given to the Royal Academy and the Infirmary by Mr Lachlan Mackintosh of Raigmore, who collected no less than £2811 7s in India for the benefit of these institutions.

Several meetings were held during 1808 to protest against a bill proposing to allow malt to be made from sugar. This, it was feared, would greatly affect the price of barley.

We referred last week to the smacks that plied between Inverness and Leith and Inverness and London. Hugh Miller describes one of the Leith and London smacks as a vessel "with a huge single mast, massive and tall as that of a frigate, and a mainsail of a quarter of an acre." It may be remembered that in 1826 Hugh spent seven days in a voyage north from Leith to Cromarty. He describes them as "days of thick, foggy mornings, clear, moonlight nights, and almost unbroken calms."

*From the "Inverness Journal."*

1808.

January 1.—"Some labourers, while digging in the eastern corner of Torvean,, on the line of the Caledonian Canal, lately discovered a massy silver chain, in the side of a large, flat cairn, about 2 feet below the surface. The chain consists of 33 circular links, formed of a perfectly cylindrical body, half-an-inch thick,

neatly joined without solder. They are linked in pairs, each of which is about 2 inches in diameter, except those at the extremities, which are  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches. A link at one of the ends has, since the discovery of the chain, been taken away; but as the remaining one is of the same dimensions with those at the other end, we may conclude that the chain was then entire. Its whole length is 18 inches, weighing about 104 ounces." There were two detached fragments which formed part of a flat and very massy ring, which had been broken after it was found; but from its form, and the appearance of wearing on the outside, it had evidently moved on some bolt. It was neatly channelled round, leaving a prominent astragal on every side. "Both the chain and ring are of excellent workmanship; and whether we attend to the uniform thickness and polish of the links, the ingenuity with which they are joined, or the perfect symmetry of the whole, we cannot but pronounce it to have been the work of an artist of no inconsiderable skill." The Editor adds that it was hinted that other articles had been found, according to report a ball and bar also of silver; but the labourers kept the matter a profound secret, as steps had been taken to compel the owner of the chain to deliver it up to the Crown. The chain is now in the Antiquarian Museum in Edinburgh.

Ibid.—It is recorded that 57 men out of 534 men were balloted to serve in the Militia for the town and parish of Inverness.

January 8.—Proposal to establish a corn market in Inverness.

January 15.—Advertisement of a woollen factory formed at Inverness, under the firm of Mackenzie, Gordon, & Co. It had already manufactured broadcloth and other fabrics.

Ibid.—Foreign vessel wrecked at Rue Rhea, Gairloch, and 4 out of a crew of 8 drowned. The vessel was laden with oil and oranges, and was supposed to have been driven round from the West of Ireland.

January 22.—It is noted that at a meeting of the Highland Society in Edinburgh, the Duchess of Gordon was elected a member without the ordinary form of ballot. "The Society adopted this mode of election as on former occasions, being a mark of its approbation of ladies of high rank coming forward in support of the institution."

Ibid.—The estate of Rosehall, in Sutherland, having being lately purchased by Lord Ashburton, his lordship was planning making extensive improvements, such as laying out waste ground for plantations. He was also

about to erect a chapel in lieu of a ruinous old kirk, for the accommodation of the poor inhabitants residing in that distant part of the parish of Creich.

*Ibid.*—The following paragraph appears from a correspondent in the Long Island:—"The ship Hamilton, of Greenock, Captain Gilchrist, is arrived at Lochmaddy, in North Uist, in 25 days from Halifax, which place she left on 30th November. The Hamilton is bound for Greenock with a valuable cargo of prize goods, consisting of coffee, tea, and sugar; she carried dispatches for Government from Admiral Berkeley and General Hunter at Halifax, which were immediately landed at the Post-Office, with several hundred private letters, and forwarded by the Uist packet."

January 29.—Died, at Bengal, on Sunday, the 20th July 1807, Alex. Gray, Esq., M.D., Surgeon on the Bengal Establishment. "From his first entrance into the Company's service, Dr Gray was remarked for his faithful and assiduous discharge of his duties. He died possessed of large property, chiefly vested in Government security. The principal part of his fortune, amounting to 3 lacs of rupees, is after the payment of five legacies devised for building a church and endowing an hospital at Elgin."

February 8.—The lands of Dalcrombie and Letterchullin purchased by Sir William Fraser of Ledclune for about nine thousand guineas.

February 12.—Another notice of the loss of the emigrant vessel, the Pamplor of Leith, reported in a previous issue. It was believed that many of the emigrants were from the parishes of Farr, Lairg, Creich, and Rogart, in Sutherland. The writer adds—"The diminution of the inhabitants of our island is at all times a subject of regret, and the annals of our country cannot point out a period when the emigration of our brave Highlanders would have been more regretted than the present, when recruits for our standing army and Militia are so hard to be found. From 30 to 40 guineas is, we understand, the common bounty paid to substitutes in this and in most of the counties of the Kingdom." In a subsequent issue it is stated that the emigrants were not from Sutherland but from Caithness. "No person from Sutherland emigrated to North America for the last two years, excepting about two or three families from the Reay district, who wantonly left the county and safely arrived in the western hemisphere." The largest amount given in Sutherland for a substitute was stated to be £20.

*Ibid.*—The Inverness Farmer Society set on foot

- a subscription for the purchase of a stallion to improve the breed of horses.
- Ibid.—Heavy snow-storm; 3 women perished, one near Beauly, one in Strathdearn, and one in the neighbourhood of Ullapool.
- Ibid.—Died, at Pittsburgh, 20th November 1807, Alexander Addison, "one of the most eminent counsellors at the western bar." He was son-in-law to the Rev. Mr Grant, of Elgin.
- February 19.—Editorial note—"Owing to the late very heavy fall of snow, which we understand is to the depth of 5 feet in many parts of the road between Edinburgh and London, we have had no mails from the latter place for these 3 days past, nor have any arrived at Edinburgh; a circumstance almost unprecedented, and which has considerably lessened the sum of our intelligence in an unusual degree."
- February 26.—A prisoner sentenced to transportation for forgery nearly effected his escape from Inverness jail by making a hole in the back wall of the prison. The fall of rubbish excited attention, and prevented the escape.
- March 4.—A woman, named Catherine Munro, murdered in her house at Tain. A reward of 10 guineas was offered by the Magistrates of Tain for the arrest of the supposed murderer, a cartwright named Macgregor. [This proved to be a libel on poor Macgregor.]
- Ibid.—Kenneth Macrae, late of the 76th Regiment, appointed Deputy Paymaster-General to the Island of Jamaica and the Leeward Islands. He had served 30 years in the army, 25 of them in India, and "though only a lieutenant-colonel," commanded a brigade at the Siege of Bhurtpore. On two occasions he commanded storming parties, for which he received the thanks of Lord Lake.
- Ibid.—The following note may be quoted:—"Through the multiplicity of other matters, we have hitherto overlooked giving an idea of a rural feast provided on the last of the holidays, old style. Cattle fetching little or no price, and fodder very dear in the extreme, it occurred to the proprietor of Beaufort that it would not be amiss to draw back his countrymen to the habit of eating some flesh with their food, and washing it down, in the convivial hour, with Lune Laiter, strong ale, instead of ardent spirits. He had a fat bullock roasted on a wooden windlass for a spit, and gave his tenants Inverness strong ale to wash it down. The roast took 18 hours in preparing, and nearly 500 persons of all ages and both sexes partook of this substantial feast. The bagpipe and the fiddle organised the happy scene, and they parted in good humour, and several matches for life took place in consequence."

- March 11.—The Highland road, which was during the winter completely blocked up by snow, is now open to travellers. [There was a time of sharp frost after this without snow, and then another snow-storm.]
- Ibid.—Advertisement of the first carrier going beyond Dingwall. His name was Donald Ross, and he was to proceed as far as Tain.
- March 18.—The road from Golspie to the Ord Hill and County of Caithness begun.
- Ibid.—In the House of Commons, Mr Charles Grant brought in a bill for commuting the statute labour in Inverness-shire.
- Ibid.—Died, at Lossiemouth, on Friday, the 11th curt., at the advanced age of 89, Lady Gordon, relict of Sir Robert Gordon of Gordonstoun.
- March 25.—The cartwright, John Macgregor, who was supposed to have murdered Catherine Munro at Tain, was himself found murdered in a wood. It seems that he was known to possess some money, and was watched and murdered while out of town. "After this the perpetrators proceeded to his house in Tain, which they plundered of his money, &c., and it would appear that while in the act of so doing they were discovered by Catherine Munro, who lived under the same roof with Macgregor, and whom it is supposed the wretches also dispatched by strangling to escape detection." Two persons residing in the Hill of Tain were arrested on suspicion for the double murder.
- April 29.—It is noted that there is great distress throughout the Highlands and Morayshire on account of want of fodder for cattle, due to the uncommon severity and length of the past winter. Black cattle and sheep were dying by hundreds. A Morayshire correspondent states that no less than 47 carcasses of cattle which had been thrown into the Spey were carried down at one time. "Nor," adds the Editor, "is there any prospect of immediate relief, the internal parts of the country being completely covered with snow." The Circuit Court was held the same week at Inverness, and the Judges had to go home by Aberdeen, as the Highland road was blocked with snow.
- May 6.—Mr Cockburn of Kincorth drowned in the River Findhorn by attempting to cross too near the quicksands. His companion and neighbour, Mr Bezeck, was saved with difficulty. "Mr Bezeck was fortunately enabled to keep his head above water, and in this situation, endeavouring to support his friend in his arms, he remained for about two hours, when some fishermen, who heard his cries, came to his relief. Every means used to restore Mr Cockburn to life proved ineffectual, and he was interred at Nairn on Sunday afternoon."



Ibid.—Died, at Fort-George, on Wednesday last, the Hon. James Stuart, Lieutenant-Governor of that place.

May 20.—William Freemantle elected M.P. for the Northern Burghs in room of Major-General Mackenzie, who had become member for Sutherland.

Ibid.—Continued reports of the losses caused by the severity of the winter. It was reported from Latheron, in Caithness, that no less than 184 black cattle, besides horses, had died of want. This, however, could not be ascribed altogether to the severity of the season, "but chiefly to the ruinous practice of over-stocking, which has too long prevailed among Highland farmers."

May 27.—Advertisement asking for vouchers from creditors "of the deceased Lewis Cuthbert, Esq. of Castlehill, in the County of Inverness, some time merchant in Jamaica, and all and sundry persons whatsoever having claims against the said estate of Castlehill or proceeds thereof."

June 3.—Meeting in Edinburgh to concert measures of relief for distress in the North. Vessels had sailed from Leith and Berwick under convoy for Kirkwall, laden with provisions and meal. "It is greatly to the honour of the Magistrates of Inverness and the heritors of the County that from their attention to the wants of the public, the inhabitants have hitherto been abundantly supplied; we also learn with satisfaction that along the West Coast the effects of scarcity have not been much felt, it being chiefly confined to the counties of Sutherland and Caithness."

Ibid.—Died, on Thursday se'night, in the 76th year of his age, Colonel James Fraser of Belladrum; much and greatly regretted.

June 10.—At the examination of the Inverness Academy a Gaelic oration was recited "which to the admirers of Celtic literature afforded peculiar pleasure."

Ibid.—Among the bills to which the Royal assent was given on Friday, the 27th ult., was "An Act for building a bridge over the River Ness, at Inverness, widening certain streets, improving the present harbour, extending the Royalty, supplying the inhabitants with water, regulating the police, and lighting the streets of the said burgh."

Ibid.—The Northern Association of gentlemen farmers and breeders of sheep, met at Beauly on the previous Friday, and appointed office-bearers, Hon. A. Fraser of Lovat being President, and the Vice-Presidents Sir Charles Ross of Balnagown and Donald Macleod of

Geanies. Premiums were given for bulls for improving the breed of black cattle. Sheep markets were held at this period at Beauly and Fort-William.

June 17.—Notice of a successful Milch Cow Market, held for the first time by the Inverness Farmer Society.

July 8.—Great distress on the West Coast of the counties of Inverness and Ross from the want of provisions. It would appear from this that the information given in a previous paragraph was imperfect.

August 26 and September 2.—Two versions of a curious story of a man who walked out of the prison of Dingwall, but afterwards surrendered. The prisoner had been a schoolmaster at Contin, and was accused of housebreaking and theft. At the Circuit Court in September he was sentenced to 14 years' transportation.

September 9.—The fifth anniversary of the Badenoch and Strathspey Farming Society was held at Pitmain and Kingussie on the 1st. A dinner party, presided over by the Marquis of Huntly, was followed by a ball. Among the ladies present were the Duchess of Manchester and her daughter, Lady Jean Montague; Mrs and Miss Grant of Arndilly and Mrs Macpherson of Belleville.

Ibid.—The Nairnshire Volunteers, through Capt. Davidson of Cantray, presented Lieut.-Colonel Rose, their commandant, with an elegant sword, value 40 guineas.

Ibid.—A wherry from North Uist, with four men and cattle, wrecked a short time previously on the island of Heiskar. Three of the men were drowned, and all the cattle except one. A cow survived three days, and the fourth man kept himself alive by sucking her blood. On the cow dying, the man supported himself on the animal's tongue till he was rescued on the fifth day.

Ibid.—Died, on Monday last, universally regretted, Mr Ebenezer Young, teacher of Latin in the Inverness Academy.

September 16.—The new bridge over the Ness at the Merkinch was now completed. This was long known to us as the Black Bridge.

September 23.—Election of Convener and Deacons of the Incorporated Trades. The following were chosen—Thomas Fraser, Convener of Trades and Deacon of the Wrights; George Phenick, Weavers; Donald Macdonald, shoemakers; Donald Macbean, Taylors; Donald Mactavish, Hammermen.

Ibid.—Yesterday was married at the Episcopal Chapel here the Rev. Dr Griffith, Master of University College, Oxford, to Miss Ironside,

- daughter of the late Rev. William Ironside, and sister to Mrs Grant of Rothiemurchus.
- Ibid.—Died, in the province of Guzerat, on the 13th of October 1807, Lieut. Simon Fraser Robertson, of the 8th Regiment of Bombay Native Infantry, third son of Arthur Robertson, Esq. of Inches.
- Ibid.—“Died, at Littleton of Ardersier, on Monday last, in the 95th year of his age, Andrew Allan, farmer, a truly worthy and honest man, of a cheerful and contented mind, remarkable for his regularity and early rising; and until a few days before his death was never known to be confined to bed by sickness or by any other cause whatever.”
- September 30.—Thomas Gilzean re-elected Provost of Inverness. The Council included four former Provosts—Phineas Mackintosh, John Mackintosh, Alexander Mackintosh, and James Grant. Sir Archibald Dunbar of Northfield was elected Provost of Nairn, and a number of county gentlemen in Nairn and Morayshire were on the Council.
- Ibid.—Rejoicings at Portree to celebrate the defeat of Marshal Junot at Vimiera. Great guns were fired, tables “with excellent liquor” placed on the terrace by orders of Lord Macdonald, and the vessels in the harbour, to the number of nearly 60, hoisted their flags. In the evening the town was illuminated.
- October 7.—The congregation in the Parish Church of Nairn on the previous Sunday were alarmed by a loud crash, which seemed to portend the fall of the building. “It is impossible to convey an idea of the scene of terror and confusion that instantly ensued. The access to the fishers’ loft, which is by one door only, was immediately choked by people in their endeavour to escape from the threatened calamity, which induced several persons in the front of the loft to throw themselves down to the ground pews in hopes of getting out with greater expedition. The consternation was further agitated by the hearing of a second crash. Those next the windows broke immediately through them, and nothing was heard but the most piercing shrieks, mixed with the groans of numbers who were trodden down and were suffering under weight of pressure of the crowd.” No lives were lost, but many were severely injured.
- Ibid.—Splendid ball and supper given at Fort-George on 23rd September by the 74th or Assaye Highland Regiment to celebrate the anniversary of the battle of Assaye.
- October 14.—Report of Northern Meeting and Hunt, with which the meeting was then associ-

- ated. The Duchess of Gordon and the Duchess of Manchester were present. "On the days appointed for enjoying the sports of the field, the hounds were well attended and had excellent sport. The dinners and balls were also well attended, particularly on Friday, when the convivial powers and marked attention of Lord Huntly were unremittingly and most successfully exerted to increase the pleasure of the company; exertions the more extraordinary as the Marquis had in the beginning of the week attended the Shooting Club at Aberdeen, and rode on Friday morning from thence to Inverness, a distance of about 105 miles, in less than 7 hours, having 8 relays of horses on the road. Lord Seaforth, with his usual politeness and attention, presented the company with a brace of excellent fat bucks."
- Ibid.*—Advertisement of 99 years' leases to be granted in Plockton, Lochalsh, lately erected into a burgh of barony.
- October 21.—Advertisement of Sir William Cumming Gordon, Bart., inviting fishermen to settle and form a village at Cummingstown, one mile east of Burghead.
- Ibid.*—Death of Alexander Macrae, Kintail, alleged to be the oldest man in Scotland. Age put at 120 years.
- November 18.—"Sir Samuel Hood and his lady passed through this place on Friday last from Brahan Castle, on their way to London. The Magistrates of Inverness, desirous of testifying their respect for the deservedly celebrated character of this gallant officer, waited on the Admiral, and presented him with the freedom of the town."
- Ibid.*—Account of the opening of the Bridge of Dunkeld on November 7th. The foundation-stone was laid in June 1805.
- Ibid.*—Died, at Kingussie, on Sunday, 6th inst., Mrs Margaret Macpherson, wife of Colonel Duncan Macpherson. "Few characters ever possessed more dignified simplicity of manners, united with pure affections and religious sentiments." She was a daughter of Cluny of the '45, and the paragraph speaks highly of the cheerfulness and even tempered spirit which endeared her to a wide circle.
- Ibid.*—The number contains an account of the meeting of the Directors of the Royal Academy and Managers of the Royal Infirmary. Provost Gilzean presided, and Mr Grant, the late Provost, laid before the meeting a letter from Mr Lachlan Mackintosh of Raigmore, lately of Calcutta, with a list of subscriptions which he had procured in India for the more liberal support of the Academy and Infirmary. The

total amount came to £2811 7s. Raigmore himself was the largest subscriber, £150, and the next was General Macdonald, £125.

November 25.—Died, on the 22nd ult., at Ruxley Lodge, Surrey, James Grant, Esq. of Redcastle, in Ross-shire.

December 16.—“Died here on the 27th ult., in the 71st year of his age, Mr James Alves, a portrait painter of eminence, and brother of the late Doctor Alves. His life was singularly good, recluse, and inoffensive, and his death much regretted. He went abroad when young to improve himself in the fine arts, and studied eight years in Paris, and other eight years in Rome.”

December 30.—The Highland Society of London suggest the establishment of a branch in the Highland Capital. They also urge the establishment of a Chair of Celtic Literature in one of the Scottish Universities, and the giving of encouragement to the teaching of Gaelic in schools. They further suggest the establishment of a National Academy of Pipe Music, and propose the name of Lieut. M'Crummen [so the name is spelt] as Professor. They think the Government should do something, as pipe music was necessary for the Highland regiments. “It is in the power of his Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief to comply with the wishes of the Society, by promoting Lieut. M'Crummen from half-pay to a higher and permanent rank in the garrison of Fort-Augustus or of Fort-William, which to him would be equivalent to a salary, on being made Professor of the establishment. Mr M'Crummen is the last of the celebrated race of pipers of that name; he is skilled in the theory and practice of the ancient pipe music, and is now in the vale of years.”

## No. III.

The present instalment is specially interesting from the authentic account it supplies of the melancholy accident which occurred on the Meikle Ferry, in the Dornoch Firth, on Wednesday, 16th August 1809, when about 100 persons lost their lives. The disaster occurred while the boat was crossing from the coast of Sutherland to the Ross-shire coast, carrying passengers for a market to be held in Tain. The boat was greatly over-crowded, and sank in the middle of the Ferry. An account of the accident appears in the *Reminiscences* of the late Rev. Mr Sage, of Resolis, which were published under the name of *Memorabilia Domestica*. This version, when compared with contemporary accounts, shows how mistakes will arise when even well-informed persons write from memory. Mr Sage says the calamity occurred as the people were returning home from Tain, and in the darkness of the night: the contemporary accounts explicitly state that it happened as the people were on their way to Tain, and there is no mention of darkness: in fact the accident must have occurred some time in the forenoon. Mr Sage says that 70 persons were drowned: the Committee who investigated the circumstances, in their final statement, gave the exact number as 99. We may quote Mr Sage's account, which is interesting in itself, and transmits a remarkable tradition as to the Sheriff's body. At the time of the disaster, Mr Sage was conducting a school at Bower, in Caithness, preparatory to attending his divinity classes at Aberdeen. The following is the passage in his *Reminiscences*:—

“On a market day at Tain, the worthy Sheriff (Mr MacCulloch) left his own house at Dornoch in the morning, and crossed the Ferry to Tain, intending to return home in the evening. When he came to the Meikle Ferry, late in the day, the shore was crowded with people returning home from the market. On his arrival they all made way for him, and he was quickly seated at the stern of the wherry; but afterwards the multitude pressed into the ferry-boat—the more earnestly as they would thus have the privilege of crossing in the same boat with the Sheriff. Apprehensive of the issue, Mr MacCulloch turned away at least

two score of them from the boat. There still remained on board, however, too many for safety. It was a dead calm, and the wherry was pushed off from land. But when it had nearly reached the middle of the Ferry, and the deepest part of it, the boat gave a sudden jerk, the water rushed in, and, with the exception of two or three who escaped by swimming, the whole of those on board sank to the bottom and perished; about 70 persons were thus drowned. This fearful event took place in the darkness of the night in the year 1809 and created a deep sensation all over the country. The Sheriff's boy was among the last that was found. The particular spot where it lay 'under the flood' was discovered in a dream. A fellow-Christian and an acquaintance, deeply affected by his death, dreamed of his departed friend. In the dream the Sheriff appeared, spoke of his sudden call to the other world, and told him where his earthly remains lay, adding that, whilst the fish of the sea were permitted to mangle at pleasure the bodies of his fellow-sufferers, they were restrained from putting a tooth upon his, which would be found entire. The dream was realised in every particular. The Sheriff's wife and daughter long survived him, and they, together with the rest of the surviving relatives of the victims of the catastrophe, were ample sharers of a fund set on foot for their support, and called the "Meikle Ferry Fund." Captain Robert Sutherland, Dr Bethune's son-in-law, was one of the leading members of this charitable association."

*From the "Inverness Journal."*

1809.

January 6.—Intense frost. It is noted that "the large and beautiful basin of the Canal," then new, was frozen over, and that people were skating upon it. The writer adds—"The water in this capacious reservoir does not proceed from Loch-Ness, but is a collection of rain water and springs from the land."

January 20.—Short paper by Sir John Sinclair on the culture of carrots on peaty soils.

January 27.—Frost so intense that the River Ness was frozen for several yards from the side; Loch-Dochfour also partially frozen; Loch-Beaully a continuous sheet of ice.

February 17.—Road to Glenelg from the North side of Inverness contracted for as far as Enoch (Aonach). This road, in the scale of improvements throughout the Highlands, was reckoned next to the Caledonian Canal. So far as the point above mentioned it was constructed

"under the Inverness-shire assessment for roads and bridges," but beyond that point it had to be undertaken by means of private subscriptions. A list of subscriptions is given, which includes Lord Macdonald, £1000; Lord Seaforth, £500; Macleod of Macleod, £400; Hugh Innes of Lochalsh, £300; Sir James Grant of Grant, £200; James Murray Grant of Glenmoriston, £200; R. G. Macdonald of Clanranald, £200; Charles Grant, M.P., £100; and Alexander Howe of Harris, £100. There are many smaller subscriptions.

February 24.—A letter from Arisaig reports a shock of earthquake distinctly felt along the West Coast.

March 3.—Boat from Balintrad, Ross-shire, loaded with peat, upset by a squall, and 6 persons drowned.

March 31.—The following notice appears in the obituary:—"Died, in London, on the 26th January last, Gilbert Gollan, Esq., a distinguished native of this place. He was much admired for a clear head, a warm heart, friendship equally steady and active, and for general information. These qualities in him were accompanied by the domestic virtues and universal benevolence in an unusual degree."

April 7.—Inverness Diligence began running on the 4th. The Diligence left Edinburgh at 7 o'clock on Monday morning, and arrived at Inverness at 4 o'clock on Tuesday afternoon.

April 21.—Frost and snow for 8 days.

April 28.—A man and woman from Tain were charged at the Aberdeen Circuit Court with the murder of 2 persons in that town. (See notes in previous chapter.) The charge was found not proven.—Four men and a boy drowned in the Pentland Firth, through the upsetting of a boat.

May 12.—A fishing-boat upset off Nairn Harbour and 8 men drowned; all married. Widows and children numbered 33. A fund was afterwards raised for their relief.

June 2.—New line of road from Inverness to Freeburn inspected by Mr Telford, the Sheriff of the County, and five of a Committee. Found that the contractors had executed the work "in a sufficient and highly satisfactory manner." At a County Meeting it was resolved to apply for a grant for the erection of a stone bridge over the Beauly.

June 9.—Report of annual examination of Inverness Royal Academy. "In the evening the young gentlemen attending the Academy gave an elegant ball in the Northern Meeting Rooms. The display of innocent gaiety and the attractions of the youthful group, which consisted



of nearly 300, were extremely interesting; but too few parents came to witness the blameless mirth and endearing graces of their offspring; a scene of all others the most gratifying to parental affection." Same date, Rev. Andrew Bonniman, A.M., appointed rector of the Fortrose Academy.

June 16.—"The Northern Association of Gentlemen Farmers, Breeders of Sheep, met at Beauly on the 9th inst., being the Sheep and Wool Market Day." The office-bearers chosen for the year were—the Hon. Colonel A. Fraser of Lovat, president; Sir Charles Ross and Donald Macleod of Geanies, vice-presidents; Sir George S. Mackenzie, secretary; and Mr James Mitchell, treasurer. Premiums were awarded for tups. Considerable business done in sheep, but little in wool, as Government was carrying on negotiations with America, the issue of which was uncertain. About 50 gentlemen dined together.

Ibid.—A Milch Cow Market, established by the Inverness-shire Farmer Society, was held at a place called "the Island." Query—Was this a name for the Capel Inch? It is difficult to see how a cattle market could be held at or near the Islands above the town.

June 25.—"On Monday, the first regiment of Inverness-shire Local Militia, commanded by the Hon. Colonel A. Fraser of Lovat, marched into the place where they are to remain on permanent duty for 28 days. From the unremitting attention of the Commandant and officers in training this regiment, joined to the characteristic qualities of the individuals who compose it, there is little doubt but that they will form one of the most respectable corps in his Majesty's service; and it has been remarked by military gentlemen that a finer body of men has not appeared in this place since the Ayrshire Militia were stationed among us."

Ibid.—"On Saturday last, as the ferry-boat at Beauly was crossing with an immense number of people who had been attending Sacrament at Kirkhill, it sank in a considerable depth of water, but happily near the shore; and although all on board were completely ducked, and many persons more or less hurt, yet we are glad to understand that no lives were lost."

Ibid.—Died, on the 15th curt., the Rev. Henry Clark, minister of the Associate Congregation at Boghole (Moyness).

June 30.—"The following is a remarkable instance of the celerity with which a person may now travel in the Highlands. Mr Gordon of Carrol, a few days ago, left Edinburgh, per

the Inverness Coach, and reached his house in Sutherland, a distance of 215 miles, in forty-seven hours and a-half." The same issue announces that a Diligence has commenced to run from Inverness to Tain by Beaully and Dingwall.

July 21.—Term for Local Militia expired. It is noted that the Magistrates conferred on the officers the freedom of the town.

July 28.—Mr Campbell, teacher in the Inverness Academy, announces that he is to open a class for instruction in Gaelic.

Ibid.—Report of rejoicings on David Davidson of Cantray attaining his majority. Colonel Rose of Kilravock presided. "A fatted ox was served up whole, and such was the attention bestowed in preparing it that the lovers of roast beef never could have tasted a more delicious morsel."

Ibid.—The bridge over the Conon passable for carriages.

August 4.—The following curious advertisement appears under this date:—"Mrs Fraser, next door to Fraser's Hotel, has just got on hand from London, a variety of ready-made grave-clothes, all sizes and prices. They surpass in quality and elegance anything of the kind ever offered to the attention of the public (desirous of paying all necessary respect to the deceased) in this quarter. Mrs F. has also small shrouds for children."

August 11.—Advertisement of application to Parliament for power to erect a bridge over the Beaully at Dunballoch.

Ibid.—Authority given to the battalions of Local Militia in Inverness-shire and adjoining Highland Counties to wear the Highland dress as their uniform. The permission seems to have been granted on the application of Colonel Macdonell of Glengarry, who commanded the 2nd Battalion.

Ibid.—The foundation of the wharf at the end of the Canal Basin was laid on Saturday last.

August 18 and September 1.—A notice appears on the 18th inst. of the disaster which occurred at the Meikle Ferry, on the Dornoch Firth, on the 16th, when about 100 persons lost their lives. The notice is as follows:—"It would appear that a great many persons from Dornoch and other parts of Sutherland, who were on their way to attend the Tain Market on Wednesday last, most imprudently crowded into the passage boat at Meikle Ferry, to the number of from 100 to 120, being considerably beyond its burden. Unfortunately, however, from an anxiety to get across, an anxiety too

common in such cases, they were insensible to the imminent danger to which they were about to expose themselves; for they had scarcely proceeded half-way from shore when, dreadful to relate, the boat sank, and all on board perished, except five persons. Mr M'Culloch, late Sheriff-Substitute of Dornoch, is said to be among the unfortunate sufferers." A portion of the subsequent issue of the "Journal," which no doubt contained a full account of the disaster, is missing from the file, but on September 1st there is an advertisement, dated from Dornoch, and signed by Captain Robert Sutherland and William Taylor, Sheriff-Clerk, asking for help for the widows and orphans of those drowned. This advertisement states "that of all the persons on board the fatal boat, only 12 were saved, and that besides a group of strangers whose numbers and names are unknown, above 100 persons are ascertained to have perished, belonging to this and the neighbouring parishes. [The number was afterwards definitely stated at 99.] That of this number there were many heads of families, all of whom (with the exception of Mr M'Culloch, late Sheriff-Substitute here) being of the lower class, left families in extreme poverty." The advertisement proceeds—"The present calamity is marked by circumstances of unexampled severity. The unfortunate sufferers had been on their way to Tain, and had with them any money they could glean for the occasion, but this is not all; they consisted chiefly either of small traders, who had cash or bills to remit to their correspondents; of manufacturers having to purchase leather and other articles for their respective occupations; of removing tenants who had converted their stock into cash, to be lodged in the Bank of Tain; and of recruiting parties having their all about them, except their destitute wives and families. Hence it appears that it is not the loss of useful lives alone that is to be deplored in the present case, but the loss of much property, stripping the miserable surviving families of all they had possessed in the world." The advertisement mentions that the officers, non-commissioned officers, and privates of the Easter Ross regiment of Local Militia, commanded by Colonel Macleod of Geanies, had contributed one day's pay towards the families of the unfortunate sufferers, and that before any appeal had been made to the public on their behalf. The appeal was the result of a public meeting, of which Captain Sutherland was chairman and Mr Taylor secretary.

August 18.—The following paragraph from this date shows that the Highlands, even at this early date, were becoming a place of resort:—

“It is with pleasure we observe that this part of the country, as is usual at this season of the year, when our romantic hills and valleys assume their most attractive appearance, is again becoming the resort of the admirers of nature and the friends of improvement. Among our arrivals this week we have to notice Lord Cathorpe, Sir William Hamilton, Sir Thomas and Mr Franklin, Brodie of Brodie, William Ellis, Esq., M.P.; Colonel Cameron of Lochiel. Major Foster, Mr and Mrs Macallister of Strathaird, Captain Ellis, Mr Baggie, Mr Ibbertson, Mr Gorthon, and Mr and Mrs Fraser of Gortuleg. Lieut.-Colonel Brodie, Governor of Fort-Augustus, passed on his way to Morayshire.”

September 1.—Notice of the death of Major-General John Randall Mackenzie of Suddie, M.P. for Sutherland, who fell at Talavera. He had previously served at the Cape and in India with the Ross-shire Buffs.

Ibid.—The proprietors of “The Duchess of Gordon Inverness Coach” inform the public that on and after 4th September their coach would only run twice a-week backwards and forwards between Edinburgh and Inverness. “The days of their starting from each place will be Monday and Thursday, at seven o’clock in the morning precisely; and as the days are shortening considerably, the passengers both going and coming will have an opportunity of sleeping on the road. The coach leaving Inverness will get to Dalwhinnie the first night, to Dunkeld the second, and to Edinburgh the third evening; which arrangement will give ladies and gentlemen visiting the North an opportunity of passing through the beautiful country between Dunkeld and Blair by daylight.”

September 8.—Portclair road from Urquhart to Fort-Augustus open to travellers. It is stated that upwards of 250 children are attending Sunday Schools established by the Hon. Colonel Fraser of Lovat in the parishes of Kirkhill, Kiltarlity, Kilmorack, and the town of Inverness. The happiest results had attended these institutions since their creation in 1805.

September 15.—“Died, at Chittledoorg, East Indies, 8th January 1808, Lieut.-Colonel Alexander Macleod, of the 15th Regiment Light Infantry; his death is supposed to be in consequence of the severe wounds he received in the memorable battle of Assaye. He was highly

valued as a distinguished officer, and is deeply lamented by his numerous friends and acquaintances. As a mark of their respect, the officers of the corps have erected a tomb to perpetuate his memory."

September 22.—Among the cases at the Circuit Court, was that of William Mackintosh, a travelling chapman, who was charged with wounding a person at Fort-William "by seven severe stabs with a Highlander's knife, commonly called a black cork, whereby he lost such a quantity of blood that his life was despaired of; and is still confined to bed in consequence of these wounds." The prisoner was convicted and sentenced to transportation for life. A "black cork" was a knife fixed in its handle, and carried in a sheath.

September 29.—Francis William Grant, Esq., to be Lieutenant and Sheriff-Principal of the Shire of Inverness, in the room of Sir James Grant, Bart., resigned.

Ibid.—The Rev. Alex. Wood presented to the Church and Parish of Rosemarkie, vacant by the death of Mr Alex. Wood, late minister there.

Ibid.—"Among the operations connected with the formation of the Caledonian Canal it will, we doubt not, be deemed worthy of notice that the River Ness, opposite to Ness Castle, has been completely removed from its bed, which is now in course of being still farther excavated as a part of this magnificent undertaking. The grand chain of locks at Muirtown are nearly completed, and the spacious wharf, destined to be the bustling scene of trade and commerce, is now in an advanced state, and corresponds with the other parts of this stupendous design."

October 6.—George Macpherson-Grant, Esq. of Ballindalloch, elected member of Parliament for the County of Sutherland, in room of the late Major-General Mackenzie of Suddie.

Ibid.—A collection of £66 made on Sunday at the doors of the Church and Chapel of Ease (East Church) in aid of the British and Foreign Bible Society.

Ibid.—Meetings of Commissioners of Supply and Town Council complained of the mail service between Inverness and Aberdeen. They specially disapproved of a proposal to bring the post by way of Huntly "as being inexpedient in itself and highly injurious to the towns on the coast." Representations were made through Mr Charles Grant, M.P.

October 13.—James Neild, formerly High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire, visited the town for the purpose of inspecting the Jail and Infirmary.

It is noted that he had spent a considerable part of his fortune in visiting prisons in Britain with the humane intention of improving them. He contributed £20 for behoof of the poor in Inverness, and £5 to the relief fund raised for the sufferers by the disaster at Meikle Ferry. He also gave beds and bed-clothes for the cells, and suggested improvements to the Magistrates.

October 27.—Report of celebrations of the Jubilee of George III., held on the 25th, the beginning of the 50th year of his reign. A dinner was held in the Northern Meeting Rooms, at which the Hon. Colonel Fraser of Lovat presided. Several ladies were present, including the Hon. Mrs Fraser of Lovat, Mrs Mackintosh of Mackintosh, Mrs Macdonell of Glengarry, Mrs Grant of Rothiemurchus, and Mrs Fraser of Foyers. A brilliantly attended ball was held in the evening, and the hills were ablaze with bonfires. Lord Seaforth, who was Provost of Dingwall, gave a breakfast there to the burgesses and their families, and there was a tenantry hall at Brahan Castle. There was also a ball for the Lovat tenantry at Beauly. Public bodies sent loyal addresses.

Ibid.—The attendance at the Northern Meeting was smaller than usual, as so many Highland families had lost relatives in the war. The Duchess of Gordon was present.

November 10.—Notice of celebration of the King's Jubilee at Nairn. There was a dinner, followed by a ball, and the town bells were rung all day. The Chairman at the dinner was Brodie of Brodie, Lord-Lieutenant of the County, who was supported as stewards by Lient.-Colonel Rose of Kilravock, Major Davidson of Cantray, Captain Dunbar of Boath, and Captain Alexander Falconer. Captain Dunbar carried out the arrangements for the ball. In this and in other issues there are notices of celebrations at Tain, Dornoch, Fort-William, &c.

November 24.—Notice of a celebration of the Jubilee at Glengarry, which had been delayed till the 15th inst., as Colonel Macdonell was present at Inverness on the 25th of October. The celebration included "a Royal salute of 21 guns from wall pieces of antiquity that once adorned Invergarry Castle, placed on movable batteries in front of the family residence, made for the purpose."

December 1.—Election of members of Parliament for the County of Ross, the candidates being Hugh Innes of Lochalsh and Sir Charles Ross of Balnagown. Mr Innes had 23 votes and Sir Charles 19, the former being thus elected. The vacancy occurred through the death of the

- previous representative, Lieut.-General Alexander Mackenzie Fraser. Mr Innes was supported by the Seaforth interest.
- Ibid.—Completion of the locks at Muirtown.
- Ibid.—Died, at his estate of Plantation, Huntly, Demerara, on the 25th August last, Robert Gordon of Drakies.
- December 8.—Died, on the 2nd curt., at Avoch House, George Mackenzie of Avoch and of Towerhill, London; “a gentleman universally beloved and respected for the possession of every quality that can adorn and endear the husband, parent, and friend.”
- December 14.—“We fear the Highland road is impassable. The Caledonian Coach, which should have arrived on Wednesday evening (the 12th) is still on the road, but where, we know not.”
- December 22.—Advertisement of Edinburgh and Aberdeen Almanacks, with supplement for the Northern Counties. Published by J. Young, Inverness, and Ettles & Young, Elgin.
- Ibid.—The Committee for managing the fund collected for the relief of the sufferers by the Meikle Ferry disaster announce that they have paid a dividend (of about one-third of the sum subscribed) amounting to £509 15s. They were enabled to grant relief to 17 widows, 9 husbands, 96 children under 14 years of age, and 46 parents or sisters of drowned persons. They also defrayed the expense of interring 24 persons, made an allowance for loss sustained by 11 persons saved from the boat, and paid about £29 for premiums to boatmen for searching for dead bodies. The Committee now state that 99 persons were drowned, of whom 43 were males and 56 females, and that 12 were saved, of whom 4 were males and 8 females. Many handsome subscriptions were given to the fund. The day's pay contributed by the Easter Ross Local Militia amounted to £67 13s 9d.

## No. IV.

There are several items of interest in the present instalment, but the only one to which we may direct attention is the death of Sheriff Fraser of Farraline. There is an interesting account of this gentleman in the late Mr Alexander Mackenzie's *History of the Frasers*. Simon Fraser was the tenth of Farraline, and was appointed Sheriff of the County of Inverness in May 1781. At that time the Highlands were in a very unsatisfactory condition. Subsequent to the battle of Culloden a band of marauders infested the country, and Mr Fraser's predecessors in the Sheriffdom, David Scrymgeour of Birkhill, and Alexander Campbell of Delnie, failed to extirpate them, although they made repeated endeavours to do so. Sheriff Fraser, however, ultimately succeeded. Mr Mackenzie thus describes his methods and their results:—

“ When appointed he discovered that the existing police was insufficient for its purpose, and found in consequence that the only way to protect the property of the lieges was by an existing arrangement to pay voluntary blackmail in money or cattle to the hands of robbers who then scoured over the Highlands and did pretty much what they liked. Farraline, who for a considerable time served in the army, had left it for the law, and at the desire of his chief, General Simon Fraser of Lovat, set himself to work right earnestly to bring about the suppression of the unsatisfactory state of things which prevailed. With the assistance of a strong and courageous Highlander, well known in his day, John Mackay, messenger-at-arms, Fort-Augustus, and by unremitting personal and persistent efforts, Sheriff Fraser ultimately succeeded in effecting his purpose. Accompanied by his faithful and trusty henchman, he traversed the most inaccessible districts, often incurring great personal danger on his journeys. He was more than once fired at, and so imminent were the risks he anticipated and often incurred that he never travelled on these occasions without a brace of loaded pistols ready for immediate use. Acting on the well-known adage of setting ‘ a thief to catch a thief,’ he appointed Donald Mor Cameron, in Leckroy of Lochaber, himself reputed a notorious cattle-lifter, as one of the constables of the County of Inverness, and thus secured his services on the side of good order in his district. By Donald's



aid the whole tribe of Kennedies, who lived by tribute or blackmail over a wide range of country, were hunted down, one of them being banged at Inverness, while several more were banished across the seas. John Mackay traced two notorious members of this tribe as far as Callander, and by a bold and masterly manœuvre captured them while carousing there in an alehouse. Mackay suddenly entered the room in which they were drinking, and peremptorily called on them to surrender, telling them at the same time that escape was now impossible. They curiously enough believed him, thinking, no doubt, that he had never dared to come so far without a sufficient bodyguard, and quietly allowed themselves to be hand-cuffed, and carried away prisoners. Their mortification and rage may be imagined when they found themselves the outwitted victims of a bold and cleverly-executed stratagem by a single unprotected officer of the law."

Sheriff Fraser died at the age of 66 (Mr Mackenzie says he was drowned at the Longman while bathing), and was succeeded by his son John, an advocate at the Scottish Bar and Deputy-Lieutenant of the County of Inverness, who sold the estate. John died in 1838. His only son, Simon, died in the same year, leaving no issue.

*From the "Inverness Journal."*

1810.

January 12.—"The will of the late Dr Gray, of Elgin, whereby he bequeathed £30,000 to the town of Elgin for pious purposes, which was disputed by his friends, and has been for some time past the subject of a Chancery suit, has, by a late decision of that Court, been declared valid, and the town of Elgin found entitled to the whole amount."

January 19.—A woman sentenced to transportation for stealing escaped from Inverness Jail by forcing one of the stanchions of the cell, and slipping down by a rope. Another prisoner escaped from the Jail of Wick. He was afterwards captured, but again escaped.

*Ibid.*—Married, at Dundonnell House, on the 10th curt., the Rev. Thomas Ross, LL.D., minister of Lochbroom, to Jane, only daughter of George Mackenzie, Esq. of Dundonnell.

January 26.—A theatrical company drawing large audiences in Inverness. One special night the proceeds were £40.

*Ibid.*—The Inverness Regiment of Militia is appointed to do duty jointly with the Artillery

- of the King's German Legion, over the French prisoners when they occupy Portchester Castle.
- February 2.—The Inverness Packet for London is advertised at this time as “armed by Government.” The vessel was to leave Inverness on the 2nd, Fort-George on the 3rd, and Cromarty on the 8th; and was to “call off Findhorn and Burghead as soon thereafter as possible.” At this rate of progress she would have taken a long time getting to her destination, but it is stated in a subsequent issue that she arrived in London on the 15th, after a quick passage.
- February 9.—The Inverness-shire Farmer Society adopted a resolution to wear cloth “of the wool of our own growth and manufactured at the Inverness Woollen Manufactory.”
- Ibid.—The Presbytery of Inverness sent to the British and Foreign Bible Society the sum of £178 19s 11½d. The collections are given as follows:—Inverness Parish Church, £32 16s 2d; Chapel of Ease, £35 10s 6d; Kiltarlity Parish, £30 7s 6d; Moy, £11 9s 6d; Petty, £20 0s 3½d; Daviot, £7 7s; Kirkhill, £32; Dores, £9 9s.
- Ibid.—Died, on 21st January, aged 75. James Fraser, tenant in Tomovoidt, parish of Boleskine, “a man of modest manners and exemplary life.” He was one of the Fraser Highlanders who distinguished themselves at the capture of Quebec (1759). It is noted that within three miles round Tomovoidt there were still surviving five more who had witnessed the capture, one of them being Captain Fraser of Bunche-gaire, and another, Captain Fraser of Errogie.
- February 23.—The Morayshire Farmers Club “entered into the patriotic resolution of wearing cloth of the manufacture of Messrs Johnson & Sim, of Newmill, the only woollen manufacturers in Morayshire.”
- March 2.—Complaints of sheep-stealing, and persons appointed as constables to search for and secure offenders. Four persons appointed for the County of Inverness. The constables were to be armed, and to watch the leading passes.
- March 9.—The Committee of the Meikle Ferry Fund announce that a second dividend of £1000 will be paid to the relatives of the sufferers. The Committee further announce that when they have completed their arrangements, they intend to hand over their minutes and the list of subscribers, by whose generosity 170 destitute persons had been relieved, to the minister of Dornoch, “to be lodged with the Session records of the parish, that the whole circumstances attending that dreadful event may be preserved and handed down to posterity.” It

- might be worth while to look for these documents. The Committee evidently carried out their work with business-like precision.
- Ibid.—Died, recently at Craigag, in the parish of Kirkhill, at the age of 102, James Fraser, farmer. "His remains were attended to the grave by a numerous family, and upwards of 70 of his grand and great-grandchildren. He possessed the use of all his faculties to the last hour, had never been confined above two hours by illness, never wore any other dress than the Highland garb in the course of his long life, and was a man much esteemed by his numerous acquaintances for his singularly pleasing manners."
- Ibid.—"Died, at Dornoch, on the 6th curt., aged 73, Bailie James Boog, of that place, a truly honest man."
- Ibid.—Died, at Amat, Ross-shire, on the 2nd curt., Munro Ross, Esq. of Pitcalnie.
- March 16.—A malignant outbreak of fever in the counties of Caithness and Sutherland. Notices of this outbreak appear for weeks afterwards. It was of a severe type.
- March 23.—Another prisoner in the Jail of Inverness, incarcerated for forgery, made his escape. The Magistrates offered a reward of 10 guineas for his apprehension. When he escaped he was wearing "a light green tartan coat of the Bannockburn manufacture, a blue waistcoat of home-made stuff, with artillery buttons; a dark green kilt with red stripes running through it, black Cadas hose, blue cloth bonnet, and a red comforter about his neck, home-made." He was not re-captured.
- March 30.—The following advertisement may be quoted:—"Very speedily will be published by John Ballantyne & Co., Edinburgh, and may be had of J. Young, Inverness, and Ettles and Young, Elgin, "The Lady of the Lake," a poem in six cantos, by Walter Scott, Esq., embellished with a portrait of the author, engraved by Heath. Printed in quarto in the best manner by Ballantyne. A few copies are taken off on royal paper."
- April 6.—Woollen factory of Mr James Melvin, dyer in Forres, burned to the ground.
- April 13.—Little girl murdered at Speymouth on the previous Sunday by a man named Gillan.
- Ibid.—"Colonel Macdonell of Glengarry was presented to his Majesty at the Levee on Wednesday se'ennight, in full Highland dress."
- April 20.—"Died, at Errogie, on the 14th curt., in the 76th year of his age, Captain John Fraser; a most respectable and worthy character. He served as a Light Infantry officer during the whole of the immortal Wolfe's

- campaigns, with whom his activity made him much in favour. He also witnessed his glorious death."
- April 27.—Subscriptions of £105 intimated for the purpose of assisting and finishing an Episcopal Chapel in Dingwall, the building of which was commenced some years ago.
- May 4.—A number of coins, mostly of Charles II. and Queen Anne, found in an old dyke at Dalmore, County of Sutherland.
- May 11.—Report of a meeting of the County of Ross, which, among its other proceedings, resolved to petition Parliament for the repeal of an Act passed this session, entitled "An Act to prohibit the distillation of spirits from corn in Great Britain for *a* limited time." It was represented that from inability to dispose of grain, it had become very difficult, if not absolutely impossible, to pay the property and assessed taxes, as well as the stipends of parish ministers. There was a complaint of the great prevalence of smuggling. The meeting also asked for further powers in relation to the construction of roads and the commutation of statute labour, which Parliament afterwards granted.
- Ibid.*—"Died, at Lochbay, in Skye, 27th April, Mr Alexander Gray, officer of Excise; a truly honest officer, who had no pleasure in hurting the Revenue or fair trader; much and justly lamented by his numerous acquaintances."
- May 25.—Legacies and donations to the Academy of Fortrose announced to the amount of £324.
- Ibid.*—Foundation stone laid of the bridge at Contin, in Ross-shire.
- Ibid.*—"The County of Nairn, in a very full meeting, which was held on Friday, the 18th *inst.*, unanimously voted an address to his Majesty, expressive of their attachment to his person, and deprecating riotous and tumultuous meetings under the pretence of reform."
- June 1.—The Freeholders, Commissioners of Supply, Justices of the Peace, and other heritors of the County of Inverness met on the 30th *inst.*, and voted a loyal address to his Majesty.
- Ibid.*—Died, on Saturday the 19th May, in New Cavendish Street, London, Simon Fraser, Esq. of Ness Castle, in the 84th year of his age.
- June 15.—A paragraph states that there was then standing in the house of Farraline, the seat of Simon Fraser, Esq., Sheriff-Depute of the County, a roof-tree, erected by one of his progenitors on the day immediately preceding the battle of Blar-na-leine, fought between the Frasers and Macdonalds at the head of Loch-Lochy. The battle was fought in July

1544. The tree or beam, which was of birch, was therefore 266 years old.
- June 22.—Notices of sheep and wool markets recently held at Beauly, Fort-Augustus, and Fort-William. Cheviot wool was sold from 36s to 37s per stone; common wool, 19s per double stone; Cheviot ewes at 36s and 37s; and Cheviot lambs at 11s 6d and 12s. Blackfaced widders brought from 21s to 23s, and lambs, 7s to 9s. A later paragraph says that the price of blackfaced widders should have been given as from 24s to 29s.
- June 29.—The Glengarry Regiment of Local Militia marched into Inverness, led by Colonel Macdonell of Glengarry. The corps mustered between 700 and 800 men, and it was stated that there was not a man in it who did not understand and speak the Gaelic language, and indeed prefer it to any other.—The Nairnshire Local Militia had previously assembled at Nairn, under command of Lieut.-Colonel Rose of Kilravock. They had two stands of colours, consecrated by the Rev. Mr Paterson, Auldearn.
- July 6.—Appreciative notices of the 3rd Regiment of Local Militia, assembled at Portree, under command of Lieut.-Colonel Macleod, and of the 1st Regiment of Ross-shire Militia, assembled at Dingwall, under command of Lieut.-Colonel D. Munro.
- July 13.—A handsome stand of colours, given by Glengarry, was presented to the regiment at the Longman by Mrs Chisholm of Chisholm. The Rev. Donald Martin, minister of the Chapel of Ease, consecrated the colours.
- July 20.—The Glengarry Regiment reviewed by General Lord Cathcart. This officer and his staff were afterwards presented with the freedom of the town. A dinner was given in the Northern Meeting Rooms, and a ball in the evening.
- Ibid.—Foundation stone of the Tain Academy laid on 18th inst. by Mr Alexander Baillie, late Provost. The site was presented by the Hon. David Ross of Ankerville, one of the Senators of the College of Justice.
- July 27.—The 1st Regiment of Inverness Local Militia assembled under command of the Hon. Colonel Fraser of Lovat.—The Easter Ross Regiment assembled at Tain, under command of Colonel Macleod of Geanies.
- Ibid.—“Died, at Inverness, on the 19th inst., Mrs Catherine Rose, spouse of the late John Rose, surveyor of taxes, daughter of the late Duncan Rose, Esq. of Kindeace, and niece to the celebrated Duncan Forbes of Culloden, Lord-President of the Court of Session.”

August 10.—Colours presented to the 1st Regiment of Local Militia by the Hon. Mrs Fraser and Mrs Macpherson of Cluny. Consecrated by the Rev. A. Fraser, senior minister of Inverness, and chaplain to the regiment. At a later date the regiment was reviewed by Major-General Scott, and there was a dinner and ball in the Northern Meeting Rooms.

Ibid.—Mr Crombie, a dentist from Aberdeen, announces a visit to Inverness, and states that if he meets with encouragement he will come regularly once a-year.

August 17.—A large sum in aid of the Meikle Ferry Fund collected in Grenada, and sent by Mr G. G. Munro, son of Mr Munro of Poyntzfield. The amount in local currency was £546 10s 6d, and in exchange value, £276 14s 6d sterling.

August 31.—“On Tuesday the 21st inst., died here, Simon Fraser, Esq. of Farraline, who filled the important offices of Sheriff-Depute, Vice-Lieutenant, and Convener of the Shire of Inverness, and by whose assiduity the public business was uniformly accelerated, and the tranquillity and welfare of the shire greatly promoted for the last 30 years. Perfect master of the language, and intimately acquainted with the manners and customs of the country, he was in the discharge of his duties eminently successful in obtaining the esteem and affection of all ranks; and being a zealous promoter of all public works and institutions, his loss will long be felt and his memory respected by a discerning public.” This is the entry in the obituary, and a local paragraph in the same issue makes reference to an impressive discourse preached on the Sheriff’s death by the Rev. Mr Rose in the High Church. The writer adds:—“In the character of a judge and in every other public situation, our late pious and worthy Sheriff was deservedly beloved and respected, while his goodness of heart and cheerfulness of temper will be long remembered among the circle of his friends.” Mr Alexander Mackenzie, in his *History of the Frasers*, says that the Sheriff, who lived at Seabank, was drowned while bathing at the Longman. This is not mentioned in the “*Journal*,” but the omission does not necessarily imply that the statement is incorrect.

Ibid.—Show of bulls at Strontian under the auspices of the Highland Society.

September 7.—“On Monday last a mare belonging to Captain Fraser of Brackla, trotted against time from Inverness to Fort-George, a distance of 14 miles, which she performed with ease in 49 minutes, being within 11 minutes

of the time allowed. Several bets were depending upon the issue, which were won, of course, by those who betted in favour of the mare."

Ibid.—Died, at Ramsgate, on the 26th August, in the 84th year of his age, Sir Alexander Munro of Novar, one of the Commissioners of His Majesty's Customs in England.—Died, at St Thomas, on the 28th day of June last, Æneas Macbean, Esq., younger of Tomatin, merchant in Glasgow.

September 14.—William Fraser-Tytler of Aldourie appointed Sheriff-Depute of the County in room of the late Sheriff Fraser.

September 28.—James Grant of Bught elected Provost of Inverness in room of Thomas Gilzean of Bonaughton.

Ibid.—Three young men, sons of neighbouring gentlemen, drowned off Lochbracadale, Skye, by the upsetting of a boat.

Ibid.—"The Highland piper, who so nobly distinguished himself in the battle of Vimiera, by playing on the bagpipes as he lay wounded, 'Up and waur them a', Willie,' has again embarked with his regiment (the 71st) for Portugal."

September 28 and October 5.—At the Circuit Court, Alexander Gillan was found guilty of the murder of a girl at Speymouth. He was sentenced to be executed and hung in chains at the spot where his crime was committed. The culprit was only about 19 years of age, but the murder was exceedingly cruel and vicious.

October 5.—At the same Court several women from Elgin were convicted of theft and reset of theft. The sentence in one case was that the woman was to be imprisoned in Elgin Tolbooth for the space of one year; that she was to stand in the pillory on the second market day thereafter with a label on her breast denoting her a "Notorious Thief"; and then to be banished Scotland for life. The other women had the same punishment, except that the label which each of them had to bear was "A Resetter of Stolen Goods."

October 12.—Duncan Munro of Culcairn elected Provost of Dingwall.

October 19.—Report of Northern Meeting. Announced that the Meeting is to hold hereafter on the third Monday of October, and to continue for the rest of the week agreeably to the regulations. For the previous year or two it began on Wednesday. On the motion of the Marquis of Huntly, it was unanimously resolved that all the members should appear annually in blue coats from the Inverness Woollen Manufactory.

November 9.—Captain Charles Urquhart, son of Mr John Urquhart, of the Ordnance, Fort-George, was killed at the battle of Busaco on 27th September. Two brothers, also officers, died some years before, one in Jamaica, the other at Portsmouth. Captain William Mackintosh, son of Mr Mackintosh, store-keeper at Fort-George, was killed at Busaco.

November 16.—Alexander Gillan, hanged at Speymouth on the 14th, for the murder previously reported.

December 7.—Opening of Crinan Canal recorded.

Ibid.—Died, on his passage to India, on the 29th April last, Lieutenant Allan Cameron, of the 78th Highlanders, son to Lieutenant John Cameron, of the 6th Royal Veteran Battalion.

“When little more than sixteen years of age he carried the regimental colours at the battle of Maida, and though these were much torn by the enemy’s shot, he had the good fortune to remain untouched. He afterwards served with the regiment in Egypt, and as Adjutant to the Battalion of Detachments from the Isle of Wight in the Walcheren Expedition, where he unfortunately contracted the fatal disorder to which he fell a youthful victim.”

December 14.—Duncan Grant of Bught resigned the office of cashier and boxmaster to the six incorporated trades, which he had held for 54 years. His son, James Grant, appointed his successor.



## No. V.

In the notes in this issue we find the record of the first election of Charles Grant, afterwards Lord Glenelg, as member for the Inverness Burghs. His father was at the time member for the County. Both were distinguished men. The son succeeded the father in the representation of the County, and was for many years a member of the Government. He was born in India, at Kidderpore, in the Presidency of Bengal, in 1779; was educated at Cambridge, and called to the English Bar in 1807. In 1813 he was appointed a Lord of the Treasury, in 1819 Secretary for Ireland, and afterwards Vice-President of the Board of Trade, President of the Board of Control, and Secretary for the Colonies. He sat for twenty-four years in the House of Commons, and was raised to the peerage in 1835, with the title of Lord Glenelg. He died in 1866.

Mention is also made in this issue of the appearance of the comet of 1811, which was for many weeks a brilliant object in the northern sky. Some of our readers will be familiar with the fine poem on this comet by the Ettrick Shepherd, of which the following stanzas may be quoted:—

“Stranger of heaven, I bid thee hail!  
Shred from the pall of glory riven,  
That flashest in celestial gale.  
Broad pennon of the King of heaven.  
“Whate’er portends thy front of fire,  
Thy streaming locks so lovely pale,  
Or peace to man, or judgment dire,  
Stranger of heaven, I bid thee hail!”

*From the “Inverness Journal.”*

1811.

January 11.—It may be interesting to give the amount of the collection made for the Northern Infirmary in the Churches of Inverness on the first Sabbath of January this year. The total amount was £89 13s 3d, distributed as follows: English and Gaelic Church, £66 14s 3d; Chapel of Ease, £20 9s; Methodist Chapel, £2 10s.

Ibid.—Died, on 8th November 1810, on board a transport at Portsmouth, and on his return from Lisbon, in charge of the medical staff attending the sick and wounded, Doctor John

**Macleod**, one of the physicians to his Majesty's forces, and second son of William Macleod of Luskintyre. He is described as a young man of uncommon abilities and extraordinary proficiency both in literary and professional attainments. His death was caused through excessive fatigue in attending to his duties.

January 18.—At a meeting in Edinburgh of the Highland Society of Scotland, a report was submitted showing the progress made in collecting ancient Celtic manuscripts and materials for a dictionary. A letter was read from Sir John Macgregor Murray offering to contribute liberally to the expense of such a dictionary from a fund collected in India. The Society authorised a sum to be laid out towards the expense of the dictionary, and for having the ancient Celtic manuscripts collected by the Society transcribed and translated.

January 25.—A collection for behoof of Bible Societies in the Parish Church of Urquhart, Ross-shire, amounted to £60 12s, including a donation of £5 by Sir Hector Mackenzie of Gairloch, Bart. The minister, Rev. Mr Calder, sent £40 12s to the Scottish Bible Society, and £20 to the Edinburgh Bible Society.

*Ibid.*—Died, at Fort-William, on the 7th January, in the 42nd year of his age, the Rev. John Ord, chaplain of the garrison and rector of the Grammar School. He is described as a man of extensive erudition and an impressive preacher.

February 15.—Report of a dinner given "for the purpose of heating, as it is called, the Mason Lodge Hotel, recently taken possession of by Mr Bennet, from Edinburgh." The company numbered about 70, with Provost Grant as chairman and Mr Mackintosh of Holm as croupier.

February 22.—Died, at the house of his mother, Lady Saltoun, in New Cavendish Street, London, on 10th February, the Hon. Simon Fraser, banker, proprietor of Ness Castle. Mr Fraser had completed his 23rd year. The property of Ness Castle devolved on his younger brother, the Hon. William Fraser.

*Ibid.*—"It may be mentioned as a proof of the increasing population of this place that Mr Smith, who holds two acres of land at the Haugh, has feued the same for the purpose of building. The ground being square and well laid out, it will form a neat village, which is to be called Gordonville."

March 1 and 8.—The death is announced on the 19th ult., of Sir James Grant of Grant, Bart. It is stated that he took little part in politics, but enjoyed the love and respect of a numerous and happy tenantry, to whom he was a most

attentive and indulgent landlord. "He had all the affections, without any of the pride or any of the harshness of feudal superiority; and never forgot, in attention to his own interests, or the improvement of his extensive estates, the interests or the comfort of the people."

Ibid.—Three men were conveying several ankers of smuggled whisky across the river opposite Ness Castle. They were pulling the boat across with a rope. The river being very high, the rope broke, the boat filled, two of the men were drowned, and the third was rescued after being carried down a mile and a-half clinging to the stern. The spirits were to have been used at the wedding of one of the men who was drowned.

March 15.—Establishment of a daily mail coach between Inverness and Aberdeen. It was to commence running on 5th April. Inside fare, £3 13s 6d; outside, £2 9s.

April 6.—A statement appears that the proprietors of the Long Island have not promoted emigration, but have encouraged tenants to remain. It is stated that the practice of exacting services has been abolished, that the small tenants in general hold directly of the proprietors, and that all payments of rent are made in money.

Ibid.—The Caledonian Company announce that while their coach is to run twice a-week to Edinburgh (it seems to have been reduced to once a-week in winter), they are to put on in June a diligence, to run five days a-week, and to perform the journey in two days instead of three. Passengers were to be allowed seven hours' rest the night they were on the road.

Ibid.—A carrier announces that he is to make a journey once a month between Inverness and Fort-William. Previously he had only made occasional journeys.

April 12.—Road completed between Inverfarigaig and the new road to Moyhall.

April 19.—"That highly useful class of judges, the Sheriff-Substitutes of Scotland, have at last had justice done to them, by receiving an addition to their salaries."

April 26.—At the Circuit Court, two shoemakers' apprentices from Elgin were convicted of assaulting, stabbing, and otherwise maltreating William Taylor, late executioner at Inverness, and were sentenced to be transported beyond the seas for seven years. The attack seems to have been made on the hangman for his conduct at the execution of Gillan at Speymouth. The report of the execution bears that the unfortunate criminal was kept waiting on the scaffold by the unskilfulness of the executioner, "whose

concern seemed directed to the perquisites of the office more than the business in which he was engaged." There is a tradition that the executioner died from the usage he received on his way home, but the short paragraph given to the trial of his assailants only speaks of maltreating. The expression "late executioner" implies no more than that he had been dismissed from his office. If he had died, the sentence would have been more severe.

May 24.—Miners brought from Wales by the Marquis of Stafford struck on a seam of coal at Brora. They hoped to be able to make the working remunerative. This apparently was the first actual proof of the existence of coal (lignite) in considerable quantity at Brora. The first bore was 230 feet in depth.

June 21.—The Caledonian Coaching Company propose to run their coaches by the Highland road three times a-week, "with such expedition that a person leaving Inverness at six o'clock in the morning can with comfort and ease get to Edinburgh next day to dinner; and in like manner from Edinburgh to Inverness." The coach from Inverness reached Dunkeld at ten o'clock in the evening, and left at five next morning, reaching Perth in time to catch the coach for Edinburgh.

June 28.—Recorded that Sir James Mackintosh, then Recorder of Bombay, had sent a remittance from that Presidency of £627 8s to the Academy of Fortrose, where he received his early education. Also that Mr John Forsyth, a son of the late William Forsyth, of Cromarty, had sent from Calcutta £125; and that George Gunn Munro, treasurer of the Island of Grenada, son of Mr Munro of Poyntzfield, and an old pupil, had sent £210.

Ibid.—Died, at Inverness, on the 24th, William Wilson, merchant in Inverness, and for many years one of its most active Magistrates.

Ibid.—"Died, in the 23rd year of his age, near Almeida, on the 5th May, Lieutenant William Houston, of the 71st Regiment, a young officer of excellent talents, of amiable disposition, and of great promise. He fell on that memorable day, gallantly leading a division of Light Infantry to the charge, and amongst the most advanced of his admiring companions. He was the only son of Hugh Houston, Esq. of Creich, in Sutherlandshire; had early discovered a high and martial spirit, and embraced the military profession with ardour and enthusiasm."

July 12.—The University and King's College of Aberdeen unanimously elected John Tulloch, A.M., of the Inverness Academy, to be conjunct

- Professor of Mathematics with Mr Duncan in the said University.
- July 19.—Colours were presented by Mrs Gillanders of Highfield to the first regiment of Ross-shire Local Militia, commanded by Lieut.-Colonel Munro of Culcairn, and were consecrated by Rev. Mr Bethune, of Alness, chaplain to the corps.
- August 16.—Notice of a veteran named John Reid, living in the village of Delnies, Nairnshire, who had seen prolonged service as a soldier, and had nearly completed his hundredth year. "He entered the 2nd Battalion of the Scots Royals upwards of eighty years ago, and fought at the battles of Dettingen, Fontenoy, Walls, and Culloden. He served also through the whole of the American War, and was present at the sieges of Quebec and Ticonderoga, where he was severely wounded by a musket ball, which entered his thigh, and which it was found impossible to extract. This ball he means to bequeath as a legacy to one of his sons, of whom he has several, all begotten in lawful wedlock, and although he married at the age of 70, and all of whom are serving their King and country." This veteran had been only twice intoxicated during his long life, once at the time of his enlistment, and again when the news of his Majesty's coronation arrived at Halifax, Nova Scotia, where the Royals then lay. Mr Macleod, of the Inverness Royal Academy, painted his portrait, and intended to present it to the Duke of Kent, then Colonel of the Royals, in which Reid had served for upwards of forty years.
- Ibid.—The 4th or Long Island Regiment of Inverness-shire Militia assembled at Benbecula on 22nd July, under command of Lieut.-Colonel Macdonald of Staffa. Only two of the rank and file were missing, and they were supposed to have entered the navy. The regiment was dressed in the complete Highland garb.
- August 23.—"This place for some days back has been the resort of an immense number of persons of rank and fashion, who at this season of the year generally visit the North for the purpose of viewing its beautiful and romantic scenery."
- August 30.—George Sinclair of Ulbster elected M.P. for Caithness, in room of his father, Sir John Sinclair, who had accepted an office under the Crown.
- Ibid.—Mr Adam appointed rector of the Inverness Academy.
- September 6.—List of subscriptions sent from India to the Meikle Ferry Disaster Fund. The total sum was 3229 pagodas, and it was stated that the value of a pagoda was 8s 9d. The

- money was transmitted through Dr Walter Ross Munro, of Calcutta.
- September 20.—Death announced of Peter Baillie, Esq. of Dochfour, M.P. for the Inverness Burghs. "Through some mistake, the name of Evan Baillie, Esq., M.P. for Bristol, was inserted in the obituary of most of our contemporary prints, but we have the pleasure to state that, though at an advanced age, that gentleman is in the perfect enjoyment of health, except in so far as it may be affected by so severe an affliction as the death of a beloved son." Mr Evan Baillie survived until 1835, when he died at the age of 95.
- Ibid.—In this and other issues there were frequent references to a comet which was then attracting great attention.
- September 27.—Publication of a volume of poetry entitled "Craig-Phadric, Visions of Sensibility, Legendary Tales, and Occasional Pieces," by D. Carey. Mr Carey was editor of the "Journal." The price of the volume was 10s 6d.
- Ibid.—Foundation laid of Lord Macdonald's village of Kyleakin. There was a ceremony, attended by the ladies and gentlemen of the neighbourhood, and followed by festivities on the village green.
- October 4.—"Francis Jeffrey, Esq., so well known and justly celebrated for his literary and legal knowledge, paid a visit to this place on Saturday last, on his way from Kinrara, the beautiful and romantic cottage of her Grace the Duchess of Gordon. Having viewed the operations of the Caledonian Canal, and the delightful scenery around Inverness, with which he seemed highly gratified, this eminent character set out for Aberdeen, on his way to Edinburgh."
- Ibid.—Died, on 16th August, at Timdow of Garthmore, in the parish of Abernethy, William Stuart, in his 91st year. He joined the army in his youth, went to Flanders in 1743, with the 42nd Regiment, and was at the battles of Fontenoy, Lafelt, and the siege of Bergen-op-Zoom. He was supposed to be the last survivor of those who went abroad with the 42nd in the above year.
- October 25.—Report of Northern Meeting, which began on Monday, 14th, and continued during the week. On Friday, about 140 ladies and gentlemen sat down to dinner, and there were about 200 dancers in the ball-room. Among the amusements of the week was a trotting match between a pony belonging to the Marquis of Huntly, and a horse belonging to Mr Forbes of Culloden. The pony was the winner. "The distance, which was about six miles, was performed with apparent ease in twenty-three

minutes, being at the rate of nearly sixteen miles an hour.

*Ibid.*—Notice of dinner given at Moyhall by The Mackintosh of Mackintosh to a distinguished party, which included Mr Charles Grant, son of the member for the County, and candidate for the representation of the Burghs. "Though many of those forming the party were in the morning at the distance of 40 miles from Moyhall, yet they all arrived nearly at the same time. One of the dishes at table was a hind quarter of one of the blackfaced breed of sheep, seven years old, which weighed 80 lbs., and had 21 lbs. of suet. It was fed at Moyhall, and proved a delectable treat." The dinner was at six o'clock, the party was kept up until two o'clock a.m., and the visitors remained for the night. In the morning, after breakfast, they left, some for Kinrara, and the others for Castle Grant.

November 1.—The sixth anniversary of Trafalgar was celebrated in Mrs Maclean's Inn, Forres, by the Forres Trafalgar Club, on Monday, 21st October, "a day which will ever be remembered by Britons with the highest emotions of national pride, regret, and satisfaction." The Marquis of Huntly was in the chair, and fifty-two members were present.

November 8.—On the 4th, Charles Grant, afterwards Lord Glenelg, son of the member for the County, was elected to represent the Inverness Burghs in Parliament. The election took place at Fortrose, on that occasion the returning burgh, and in expressing his thanks, Mr Grant declared that he was utterly unconnected with any political party; "and the privilege of making this assertion with truth is one which I value too highly ever to resign." The gentlemen present afterwards dined together, and the health of the new member was proposed by Sir William Gordon-Cumming of Altyre, who said—"I have long been intimately acquainted with him. I know him to be a man of staunch independence, and venture to predict that this day will be always reckoned auspicious for the interests of this country." The same evening a school ball was given, and many of the gentlemen honoured the ball with their presence, the dance being kept up with great spirit until past midnight.

*Ibid.*—"On Saturday the Magistrates of this place [Inverness] conferred the freedom of the town on Charles Grant, Esq. of Wattarnish, now M.P.; Sir William Gordon-Cumming of Gordonstoun and Altyre, Baronet; Donald Mackintosh, Esq., writer, Edinburgh; and George Gunn Munro, Esq. of Grenada."

Ibid.—The Committee of the Meikle Ferry Disaster Fund announce another distribution of money collected. A correspondent in Skye very kindly sends us a copy of the circular issued at the time, still wonderfully fresh after ninety years. The total amount distributed to date was £2909 15s, and this did not exhaust the fund, although the amount of the balance is not stated.

November 15.—On the 8th inst., the tenantry on the Cawdor estates celebrated the majority of the Hon. John Frederick Campbell, eldest son of Lord Cawdor. Mr Dunbar Brodie of Burgie and Lethen presided, as the nearest relative of the Cawdor family present. The Castle was illuminated, and the country ablaze with bonfires.

November 22.—The ferry-boat between Fort-George and Rosemarkie was overturned on the 15th inst., with 13 persons on board, and all were drowned except 2. There was a strong wind against the boat, and a pony on board. The boat turned broadside to the storm, and a wave burst over and swamped her. One man was saved by clinging to the pony, and another man by holding to the mast. A subscription was raised for the relatives of the sufferers, to which the officers and men of the 2nd Battalion of the 78th, quartered at Fort-George, contributed £21 7s 7d.

November 29.—Two new roads completed between Bonar, in Sutherland, and the Ord Hill. This included the bridge over the Helmsdale river. Plan submitted for the mound and bridge across the fleet at the Little Ferry.

Ibid.—“Died, at Dresden, on the 5th October, the Right Hon. James, Earl of Findlater and Seafield, Lord Deskford. His lordship's princely estates, yielding about £40,000 per annum, together with the title of Earl of Seafield, devolve on Sir Lewis Alexander Grant of Grant, Bart., eldest son of the late lamented Sir James Grant of Grant, Bart.”

December 6.—The road from Inverness to Fort-Augustus, by Urquhart, completed. The original contractor for the road failed, and his surety, Sir John Campbell of Ardnamurchan, had to finish the work. Great praise is given to Sir John for the manner in which he executed the work, although it involved him in a loss of £2000.



## No. VI.

In this issue is recorded the death of the famous Jane, Duchess of Gordon, who raised the Gordon Highlanders. She was in her sixty-sixth year—not so old as one is apt to imagine from the traditions respecting her social activity and enterprise. Her latter years were passed in disappointment, suffering from estrangement from her husband. At the time of their marriage the Duke and Duchess (Jane Maxwell, “the Flower of Galloway”) were a singularly handsome couple. “The Duke was in his twenty-fourth year, the bride in her twenty-first. Reynolds has preserved some memorial of the youthful beauty of the Duchess, and a lovelier profile was never drawn.” For many years she was a brilliant leader of society in London, attracting to her assemblies wits, orators, and statesmen. She made great matches for most of her daughters. In 1794 the Duchess raised the Gordon Highlanders for her son, the Marquis of Huntly, the two recruiting at every fair in the countryside. Tradition has it that when other arguments failed, a kiss from the Duchess won the recruit. In the closing years of her life the Duchess spent her summers at Kinrara, in Badenoch, living first in the old farm-house and afterwards in a villa built for her accommodation. Mr Alexander Macpherson, in his interesting volume on Old Church and Social life in the Highlands, says:—

“Mr Duncan Macpherson, Kingussie, the venerable ‘Old Banker’—who died in February 1890, at the ripe old age of ninety-one—vividly described the intense interest excited in Badenoch by the arrival of the remains of the Duchess in a hearse, drawn all the way from London by six jet-black Belgian horses. At Dalwhinnie, the first stage within the Highland territory—then belonging to the family—at which the funeral cortege arrived, the body of the Duchess lay in state for two days. For a similar period it lay at the inn then at Pitmain, within half-a-mile of Kingussie, and was subsequently followed by an immense concourse of Highland people to the final resting-place at her beloved Kinrara. According to her own directions, her remains were

interred in a favourite sequestered spot within a short distance from Kinrara House, far away from the noise of the great Babylon in which she died, and within hearing of the plaintive song of our noble Highland river. The spot is marked by a granite monument, erected by her husband."

An advertisement of the forest of Glenfeshie, under date January 17, may attract attention. Scrope, in his "Days of Deer-stalking," says that this forest "was let in 1752 to Mr Macpherson of Invereshie, and continued to be rented by that family until 1812, when it was purchased from the Duke of Gordon by Mr Macpherson of Invereshie and Ballindalloch." For many years afterwards it continued to be pastured by cattle and sheep.

The year 1812 was remarkable in the history of the wars with Napoleon. In that year the Duke of Wellington captured Ciudad Rodrigo and Badajos, and won the battle of Salamanca. In the same year Napoleon undertook his disastrous campaign to Russia, and in December all Europe was ringing with news of the destruction of the Grand Army. We record little in our Northern Notes except such as relates to the Highlands of Scotland. In October and November a General Election took place, and we give the names of the members returned for constituencies in the Northern Counties. Readers will be interested in paragraphs relating to the appearance of the two Grants, father and son, the one re-elected for the County, the other for the Inverness District of Burghs.

*From the "Inverness Journal."*

1812.

January 3.—Announced that after January 11 the coach will run only once a-week between Inverness and Perth.

January 10.—"The old mansion house of Dunean, which was, for its standing, in excellent repair, and occupied by the overseer of the Mains, took fire on the evening of Saturday last, and was burnt to the ground. Every exertion to stop the progress of the flames proved ineffectual, and it was with the greatest difficulty that any part of the furniture was preserved."

Ibid.—"Died, on the 27th December, at the advanced age of 96 years, David Fraser, late farmer of Barnyards, near Beauly. He served as piper to Simon Lord Lovat, and fought

at the battles of Falkirk and Culloden. Notwithstanding his very great age, he retained his faculties entire; he was never heard to complain of indisposition, and it was only for a few days before his death he was obliged, owing to debility, to confine himself to bed. The Hon. A. Fraser of Lovat, desirous to show every mark of respect to the remains of an old and faithful servant, ordered both his pipers to accompany the funeral, on the 13th ult., playing a mournful dirge from Barnyards to the place of interment at Kirkhill; he also generously sent, to the burying-ground, a sufficient supply of good Highland whisky for the refreshment of those who attended the funeral."

January 17.—Advertisement of the forest of Glenfeshie, in Badenoch, consisting of 13,706 acres, the property of the Duke of Gordon. "It is adapted either for a summer grazing to black cattle, or for shooting ground to a sportsman who might wish to preserve the tract for deer, moor game, and ptarmigan, all of which abound in the adjoining hills, and with which it would be abundantly stocked in a very short time, if carefully kept for this purpose."

February 7.—Lieut.-General Archibald Campbell, of the late Breadalbane Fencibles, was appointed Lieut.-Governor of Fort-Angustus, in room of the late Colonel Brodie.

Ibid.—Died, at Garvamore, on the 9th January, Mrs Janet Macdonald, relict of Alexander Macdonald, Esq. of Tullochcrombie, and daughter of Macdonald of Keppoch. Mr Alexander Mackenzie, in his History of the Macdonalds, mentions that Keppoch had two daughters, one Katharine, married to John Macdonald of Killichonate, and the other, Jessie, married to Alexander Macdonald of "Tullocherom." A few years after Culloden one of these ladies danced with General Wolfe at a ball at Inverness.

February 14.—Notice of the retirement of Sir James Mackintosh from the office of Recorder of Bombay.

February 21.—It is stated that 30 to 40 vessels, laden with kelp from the West Coast, enter annually the port of London.

Ibid.—"Died, at Fort-Angustus, the 11th January last., Colonel George Brodie, late Lieut.-Governor of that Fort. In the long train of military services, in different climates, his conduct was marked for strict honour, true courage, and warm friendship, which procured him high respect and esteem from his brother officers. His numerous acquaintances and friends will long remember his singular open-

ness, honesty, and generosity of heart, equalled by few and surpassed by none. Such was the general regret for and respect shown to this worthy man at Fort-Augustus that after the usual honours were paid to his memory, when his remains were about to be removed to the family burying-place at Dyke, the numerous attendants would not allow the coffin to be put into the hearse, but insisted they should carry it for some miles, as the last token of regard and esteem for their worthy Governor."

February 28.—The Hon. Colonel Fraser of Lovat intimated his contract with the Parliamentary Commissioners of Roads and Bridges for constructing the Lovat Bridge across the river Beauly. He also gave directions for erecting stations on Loch-Nevis, in Morar, for catching and curing herrings.

March 13.—The Easter Ross Farmers' Club, established about a year previous, held their first ploughing match about this time.

March 27.—"A poor woman in Burghead lately purchased half-a-dozen fresh haddocks, being all that her purse could afford, on opening one of which, to her astonishment, she found a guinea in gold."

April 3.—Died, at Bridgend of Dunbeath, in the County of Caithness, on the 20th of March. Capt. John Sutherland, aged 69. He entered the army in 1759, and served with General Wolfe at Louisburg, and the Siege of Quebec, and under General Murray at Montreal. For nine years he was captain of the Forss Volunteers. He was interred with military honours by his own Company in presence of a vast concourse of people.

Ibid.—Died, at Flowerburn, on the 19th ult.. Roderick Mackenzie of Flowerburn, in the 84th year of his age.

April 10.—A correspondent states that the members of the Easter Ross Farmers' Club and others in that quarter raised a subscription for destroying crows in 1811, in consequence of which 5722 were killed. A subscription of the same kind was entered into in 1812.

Ibid.—The first Fiars' Court ever held in Sutherland, assembled at Dornoch on 19th February, under the presidency of Sheriff-Substitute Mackid, whose address on the occasion was published in this issue. The Sheriff mentioned the singular fact that this was the first Court of the kind held in the County, saying that many reasons might be assigned for the Sheriffs having hitherto overlooked the matter, but he would not trouble the jury with stating them. He dwelt, however, with satisfaction on the

fact that juries had rarely to be summoned in Sutherland, as crime was scarcely known in the County except in name.

*Ibid.*—Died, on 27th March, at Grantown, John Grant, in his 92nd year. He had lived under four lairds of Grant, and possessed a remarkable fund of anecdotes and traditions of the County. He conducted fleets of rafts from the fir woods to the sea at Garmouth, and was at one time known as Admiral of the Spey, as he had charge of all the Glenmore Company's timber. "A few years since his leading raft struck upon a rock near Rothes, as his sight was failing, and went to pieces; he disappeared, but a young man, leading the succeeding raft, seeing a boat and a boy crossing near them, sprang into it, and getting a view of John's head above water, brought him out, and he soon recovered. Upon his return home, worthy Sir James Grant took his promise never to go upon the Spey any more, which he sacredly kept. Such as have been at Castle Grant must have observed in the Great Hall a remarkable Highlander's full picture, with whiskers, and a large crooked sabre. This was his father, Allister Moir Grant, attached to the family as the son was, and much regarded by them. Sir James Grant dressed him lately in his own Inverness-shire Lieutenant uniform, of which he was very proud, and he, for the last time, went in them to Castle Grant in September last, to pay his duty to the family."

April 24.—"The most noble Jane Duchess of Gordon died on Saturday the 11th inst., in the Pulteney Hotel, London. Her Grace was the eldest daughter of Sir Wm. Maxwell of Monreith, Bart., was born in 1746, and married to the present Duke of Gordon, October 23rd, 1767, by whom she had, now living, one son, the Marquis of Huntly, and five daughters, namely, the Duchess of Richmond, Lady Madelina Palmer, the Duchess of Manchester, the Marchioness of Cornwallis, and the Duchess of Bedford. She had a second son, Alexander, who died about four years ago. The remains of her Grace were removed from the Pulteney Hotel on Friday last, in order to be conveyed to her beautiful seat of Kinrara. The Marquis of Huntly accompanies the mournful procession to witness her Grace's interment."

May 1.—Foundation stone of the bridge over the Beauly laid by Hon. Colonel Fraser of Lovat on the 27th ult.

May 8.—There is a short memoir in this issue of Major John Mackenzie Scott, who fell at the battle of Albuera on 16th May 1811. He was

a native of Inverness, eldest son of William Scott of Seabank, and entered the army at the age of 17, being appointed ensign in the 18th by his relative, Lord Seaforth. Major Scott had an active and distinguished career.

May 29.—On Monday, the 11th inst., the remains of the Duchess of Gordon were interred at Kinrara, in compliance with her own desire, expressed at different times during her life, and more earnestly on her deathbed. Twenty-three days were occupied in the journey from London to Pitmain, where the procession arrived on Saturday the 9th. The most gratifying marks of civility were shown to the attendants in all the places through which they passed. The Marquis of Huntly, who had never left his mother during her last illness, left London with the procession, but came by a different route to Scotland to meet and join it on the borders of his father's property at Dalnacardoch, in Perthshire. At an early hour on the 11th the body was moved from Pitmain and consigned to the grave. There was a large attendance of gentlemen and a great concourse of people from the district.

Ibid.—Memorial sketch of Lieut.-Colonel William Campbell, who was mortally wounded in the moment of victory at the head of the 78th Regiment in the attack on Fort Cornelis, Island of Java. He was the third son of John Campbell of Ensay. He was advanced some paces before the 78th and in the act of turning round to cheer them on to the assault when he was struck down by grape shot.

June 5 and 12.—These two numbers contain a biographical account of General Mackenzie Fraser, who was born in 1758, and saw distinguished service with the 2nd Battalion 73rd Highlanders and the 78th Highlanders. He also commanded the expedition to Egypt in 1807, and a division under Sir John Moore in 1809, being present at the battle of Corunna. He served in the Walcheren Expedition, was invalided home, and died on 13th September 1809, at the age of 51. He was M.P. for Cromarty from 1802, and for Ross-shire from 1806 until the date of his death. General Mackenzie Fraser was born at Tore, in the County of Ross. He was a younger son of Colin Mackenzie of Kilcoy, and was born after his father's death. His mother was Martha Fraser, eldest daughter of Fraser of Inverallochy, in the County of Aberdeen. In 1803 he acquired the estate of Inverallochy by the settlement of his mother, and added the name of Fraser to his paternal surname. A

- fine portrait of General Mackenzie Fraser appears in Major Davidson's History of the 78th Regiment, recently published.
- June 12.—The contractors for constructing an iron bridge across Bonar Ferry had succeeded in laying the foundation of the water abutment, "contrary to the expectation of all those who are acquainted with the obstacles which the depth and strength of the current presented."
- July 3.—On Wednesday, 30th June, the Rev. Simon Fraser was ordained by the Presbytery of Inverness.
- Ibid.—"On the 24th ult., died, at Struy, Strathglass, Mr James Rose, officer of Excise, who by a conscientious discharge of every duty, public and private, rendered himself the object of universal regard. His funeral was attended by upwards of 2000 persons, among whom were many of the first rank, who affectionately bore his remains on their shoulders from his house at Struy to the place of interment at Kirkhill, a distance of at least twelve miles." This was a real Highland funeral, and given to an Excise officer.
- July 10.—William Raff, son of a merchant in Forres, drowned while bathing in the river Findhorn. He was in his 17th year.
- Ibid.—Thomas Telford, the engineer, then residing at Clachnaharry, sends an eulogium on John Leyden, from the pen of General Malcolm—"My respected friend and schoolfellow," as Telford calls him. The tribute originally appeared in the "Bombay Courier."
- July 17.—Mr James Robertson announces that, having purchased the grocery business so long carried on by Mackintosh, Inglis, & Wilson, he has assumed as his partners Bailie John Mackenzie, Mr Hugh Innes, and Mr John Ferguson, and that the business will be conducted under the firm of Robertson, Innes, and Co. He mentions at the same time that Mr Ferguson had been long associated with him in the wine trade.
- Ibid.—Died, lately, in the parish of Knockando, County of Elgin, an eccentric character known as Red Jean, or Jean Roy. She disliked her own sex, and always pretended to be a man, wearing a kilt, jacket, and blue bonnet. She generally worked as a day labourer.
- July 24.—On Tuesday, 21st curt., the majority was celebrated of the Hon. William Mackenzie, Master of Seaforth.
- August 7.—Account of a gallant action by "our countryman, Lieut. Warrant, who commanded his Majesty's schooner Sealark, 10 guns. Being off Start Point on 21st July, Lieut. Warrant

learned that a large lugger was chasing and firing at two merchant vessels. He immediately gave chase, and after a sharp action, captured the lugger. The enemy proved to be the *Ville de Caen*, Captain Cocket, of 16 guns and 75 men, belonging to St Maloes. She had sailed from the Isle of Bas the day before. The *Sealark* had seven men killed, and twenty-three wounded, among the latter the gallant Lieutenant. The Frenchman had her captain and fourteen men killed, and sixteen wounded. Lieut. Warrant was promoted to the rank of Master and Commander in consideration of his bravery and good conduct.

*Ibid.*—An English provincial paper contained the following paragraph:—"A cast iron bridge on a new plan is now reared for public inspection by Mr Hazeldine, in front of his foundry at Plaskynaston, where it forms a new object of attraction and wonder to the visitors of Llangollen Vale and the Aqueduct. This stupendous bridge is constructed for the purpose of being erected at Bonar Ferry, over the Dornoch Firth, and will connect the counties of Ross and Sutherland. It is a single arch of 150 feet in span, the main ribs are 3 feet wide by 2½ feet thick, and the roadway is supported by them in lozenges. The design is by T. Telford, Esq., and the abutments are building by Mr Simpson, of Shrewsbury, and Mr Cargil, of the Caledonian Canal." The bridge was at this date on its way to Bonar.

*Ibid.*—A fishery officer was placed at Tobermory for the convenience of the boats engaged in the herring fishing.

*Ibid.*—A show of live stock was held at Bridgend of Alness on the 4th by the Wester Ross and Easter Ross Farmer Clubs.

August 14.—The Morayshire Farmer Club held a show [presumably at Elgin] to encourage the improvement of the breeds of black cattle and draught horses. After the show a party of 60 dined at Pearey's. The Duke of Gordon was present, but his son, the Marquis of Huntly, occupied the chair, with Ballindalloch as croupier. "His lordship gave an excellent turtle, dressed by his own cook in the highest perfection, and some of the finest old cheese and Highland whisky that had ever been tasted by the Club." The Duke of Gordon presented to the Club a silver cup bearing an engraving of a plough, with the motto, "God speed the plough." The prize at the show for the best bull was awarded to Sir William Gordon Cumming, Bart. of Altyre.

August 28.—Gratification is expressed at the



prospect of an abundant harvest through the whole country. "Neither blight, smut, mildew, or any other injurious visitation has yet been witnessed."

Ibid.—"Died, on the 8th June last, at his estate in Demerara, Alexander Macrae, Esq., a member of the Court of Policy of that Colony, and chief of the respectable and ancient family of his name in the Highlands of Scotland."

September 4.—"Sabbath last, the Rev. John Macdonell, of Forres, baptised the infant son of the Rev. Dr Brichan, of Dyke, by the name of Wellington."

Ibid.—Lientenant and Adjutant James Davidson, of the 27th Regiment, killed at the battle of Salamanca, was second son of John Davidson, collector of the Land Tax of the County of Caithness. Another son, Captain Sinclair Davidson, of the 79th Regiment, fell while gallantly leading his company to victory at the battle of Fuentes d'Honore. Both were officers of great promise.

September 18.—At the Circuit Court, held on the 15th, Lord Hermand presiding, a man named Robert Ferguson, a cartwright, was tried for the murder of Captain Charles Munro, of the 42nd Regiment, at a smithy in the parish of Resolis, Ross-shire. Captain Munro entered the smithy about five o'clock in the afternoon on the 2nd of June. Ferguson entered shortly afterwards, and began to swear at the Captain, who pushed him out. Returning with an open knife, Ferguson plunged it into the side of Captain Munro, who died the following evening, remarking before he expired that "He wished he had fallen on the field of battle." The accused was convicted, and sentenced to be executed at Inverness on 30th October.

September 25.—"Died, on the 19th ult., at Gihaltar, where he had resided for half a century as an eminent merchant, John Smith, Esq., aged 75, and formerly of Inverness. His remains were followed to the grave by all the chief civil and military authorities of the garrison, who were equally anxious to pay him that compliment which his long respectable life so justly entitled him to."

October 9.—Proclamation dissolving Parliament and calling a new one, the writs made returnable on 24th November. It is announced that Sir James Mackintosh, who was expected to stand for the county of Nairn, could not come forward, as he had not been infested a sufficient length of time to allow of his being admitted to the roll of Freeholders. Mr Innes of Lochalsh had declined to offer himself again for the County of Ross.

October 16.—Mr J. P. Grant of Rothiemurchus elected one of the representatives for East Grimsby.

Ibid.—Died, at the Manse of Urquhart, Ross-shire, on the 1st October, in the 64th year of his age and 38th of his ministry, the Rev. Charles Calder, minister of Urquhart, a man eminently devoted to his divine Master's service. A short memoir bears testimony to the piety, talent, kindness, and ministerial usefulness of Mr Calder. "His correct classical task, refined by early, assiduous study, gave a superior polish to his compositions, which were always distinguished for elegance and ingenuity, and served to commend, to the most fastidious ear, the weighty sentiments which he drew, pure and genuine, from the sacred fountain of truth."

October 23.—The man Robert Ferguson, convicted of murder, was respited for fourteen days, on account of the election of a member for the Burghs on the 30th, and of a member for the County on the Friday following.

Ibid.—The ingathering of the crops, which promised to be so plentiful, was greatly delayed by unfavourable weather. Even in the "low country" the crop was far from being secured.

October 30.—Freedom of the burgh conferred on Sir James Mackintosh. It is not stated that Sir James was present.

Ibid.—Colonel Rose of Kilarvock elected member of Parliament for the County of Nairn. Sir James Dunbar of Boath, who proposed to come forward, waived his claims in favour of Colonel Rose.

Ibid.—The Northern Meeting was held the previous week, and largely attended. "Owing to the unfavourable state of the weather, the sports of the field afforded but little enjoyment; this was, however, fully compensated by the social intercourse of the festive board and the brilliancy of the ball-room. On the last night of this gay scene, the Hon. Colonel A. Fraser of Lovat and his amiable lady entertained a select, though very numerous, party of the ladies and gentlemen who attended the Meeting at their beautiful residence called the Barracks, in the immediate neighbourhood of this place, and from which they reluctantly departed at an advanced hour of the following morning."

Ibid.—On Wednesday, 21st inst., the anniversary of Trafalgar was celebrated at Forres. The Duke of Gordon was in the chair, and the Marquis of Huntly croupier. Sir James Mackintosh was also present. The Duke of Gordon presented a silver cup to the Club, inscribed—"In

memory of Lord Nelson's victories of the Nile, Copenhagen, and Trafalgar." The Rev. Mr Gordon, Banff, also presented a handsome bronze medal, bearing a likeness of Lord Nelson.

November 6.—The election of a member for the Inverness Burghs took place on the previous Friday, when Charles Grant, yr. of Watternish, was unanimously chosen. On his election, Mr Grant addressed his constituents in a speech which runs to three columns of the paper. It was a powerful and eloquent address, rather more ornate than we are accustomed to now-a-days, but animated and lofty in tone, and marked by felicity of phrase. The member strongly defended a vote which he had recently given in favour of Catholic emancipation, or rather in favour of an inquiry to ascertain whether the Catholic claims could be safely conceded. He also spoke in indignant terms of the recent assassination of the Prime Minister, Mr Perceval. The closing sentences of this passage may be quoted as a specimen of the address:—"Who," he asked, "can forget that eloquence, not perhaps of the highest order, yet distinguished by traits of greatness; not, perhaps, measured in its march nor nurtured in the shady spaces of philosophy, yet keen, active, penetrating; admirably fitted for combat, pliable in its movements, invincible in debate, triumphant in reply—that eloquence which, without courting the flowers of fancy, was yet sometimes elevated to a sublime height by the mere force of inward sentiment, by the intense conviction of an inward and high-toned principle? Well do I remember the indignant tones in which, but a few nights before his death, he asserted the cause of the Constitution; when in allusion to the disturbances which have disgraced England, in a speech literally carried along by the acclamations of an admiring audience, he reprobated the opinion of those who recommended delay in the use of coercive measures, when he exclaimed, 'Shall we await to see who is the next victim of assassination?' Gentlemen, his murderer was then in the House of Commons. Those words were at that moment ringing in the ears of him who was destined to make them prophetic." After his election, Mr Grant gave a splendid entertainment to the leading inhabitants of the town and neighbourhood, upwards of a hundred being present.

Ibid.—On October 29th, Colonel Francis William Grant of Grant was unanimously elected member for the County of Elgin, and on the 30th,

Patrick Milne of Crimmongate was elected for the Elgin District of Burghs. On the 30th, Hugh Innes of Lochalsh was elected for the Northern Burghs, and on the 28th, James Macdonald (no designation given) was elected for the County of Sutherland. On the 2nd, Robert Abercromby of Birkenbog was elected for the County of Banff.

November 13.—On the previous Friday, Mr Charles Grant of Waternish (father of the burgh member) was unanimously re-elected member for the County of Inverness. Mr Grant's speech on the occasion is reported at a length of two columns. Though not so eloquent as his son's address, it is compact and well expressed. Mr Grant considered that there was no alternative to the war with France. Any peace with Napoleon would be a false and hollow peace, fatal to us. "We alone," said Mr Grant, "stand erect amidst the wreck of nations. The rest of Europe has been compelled to bend to a ruthless despot." The speaker also defended the vote he had given in favour of an inquiry into the Catholic claims. "Into this inquiry he was willing to go, though he confessed the temper which the Catholic body, or at least those delegated by them, had of late shown was not encouraging. They urged their claims in an imperious spirit, which treated even previous inquiry as injurious to them." In his closing speech, Mr Grant said "that during the ten years he has sat in Parliament, he had not asked or received anything for himself or any one belonging to him from any administration. The advantages he had acquired in life flowed from that service to which he had been from his early years attached: his highest honour from the office to which he had that day been nominated. Feeling the employments of active life still easy to him, it had been a gratification to him to renew the tender of his services to the county, and he was still more gratified by the generous manner in which the Freeholders had been pleased to accept them." After the election a dinner was given, at which Colonel Fraser of Lovat presided.

*Ibid.*—The same issue contains a report of the contested election for the County of Ross, which took place at Tain on the 3rd inst. The candidates were the Hon. William Frederick Mackenzie, eldest son of Lord Seaforth, and Sir Charles Ross of Balnagown. The Hon. Wm. Mackenzie was elected by a majority of 17 votes, 29 freeholders having voted for the successful candidate, and 12 for his opponent.

*Ibid.*—The dignity of baronet was conferred on Æneas Mackintosh of Mackintosh.

Ibid.—What was called the Nairnshire Meeting, a county association of natives in London, dined on the 5th at the City of London Tavern. The members present drank to the memory of the late Mr Straith, the burgh schoolmaster, by whom most of them had been educated.

Ibid.—“Died, at Bught, on the 4th curt., Duncan Grant of Bught, in the 82nd year of his age. His funeral was attended by every individual member of the six Incorporated Trades of Inverness, who to show their attachment to the remains of their cashier for the long period of 56 years, insisted on carrying his body to the place of interment.”

November 20.—Robert Ferguson, the murderer of Captain Munro, was executed on the 13th. The place of execution is not mentioned, though it is stated that there was a great concourse of spectators. The prisoner addressed the multitude in Gaelic, acknowledging the justice of his sentence. “He then made many suitable reflections on his own situation, and stated that till some time after he was confined in the prison of Inverness, he had not access to the Scriptures; that, by the benevolence of well-disposed persons in Inverness, he was soon taught to read, and that ever since the Word of God had been his only comfort.” Ferguson had been in prison for about five months. He was attended to the scaffold by the Rev. T. Fraser and the Rev. D. Martin, ministers of Inverness.

Ibid.—The bridge of Bonar is officially declared “finished and complete,” and open to travellers.

Ibid.—“On Tuesday last, Mr Charles Grant, M.P. for the burgh, gave a ball and supper to a numerous assemblage of beauty and fashion from this and the neighbouring counties.”

Ibid.—Report of a dinner on the election of Mr Canning for Liverpool. The chair on the occasion “was most ably and respectably filled by John Gladstone, Esq.,” the father of William Ewart Gladstone.

November 27.—“Died, at Ness-side, having nearly attained his 88th year, Phineas Mackintosh of Drummond, many years Provost of Inverness. The kindness and gentleness of his disposition, the urbanity of his manners, and the goodness of his heart, will endear and perpetuate his memory to his numerous acquaintances, while his death must prove a source of sincere regret to all his friends and relations.”

December 4.—The weather is again reported as extremely unfavourable, and the harvest not yet over “in the internal parts of the country.”

December 11.—“Duncan George Forbes, Esq. of Culloden, has presented the Rev. John Mac-

donald, minister of the Gaelic Chapel in Edinburgh, to the church and parish of Urquhart, Presovtery of Dingwall, vacant by the death of the last incumbent." This was the beginning of the ministry in Ferrintosh of Dr Macdonald, "the Apostle of the North."

December 25.—The leading article in this issue is headed—"Most Glorious News! Total Defeat of the French Army in Russia." Previous issues contained long accounts of the disastrous campaign of Napoleon in Russia.

Ibid.—"Married, at Edinburgh, on the 16th December, James Gooden, Esq., merchant, London, to Miss Chisholm, daughter of the late Alexander Chisholm of Chisholm, Esq."

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The following paragraph appears in James Suter's *Memorabilia*:—"1812.—Head of Church Street widened. Expense, £600, paid by the Burgh. On the site of some old houses, pulled down at this period, the fine structure called Geddes's Building was erected."

## No. VII.

The year 1813 brought to a climax the great Continental war with Napoleon. The destruction of the French Army in Russia in 1812 undermined the power of the French Emperor, and during the year 1813 he was making superhuman efforts to meet the Allied nations. His overwhelming defeat at Leipsic in October ensured his overthrow, although his abdication did not occur till the following year. In 1813 Wellington was steadily advancing through the Peninsula, driving Soult before him. At the same time Britain was involved in a war with the United States of America, which began the previous year. The right of search was the question in dispute. "The British claim to board American vessels and remove all who were suspected of being English subjects, was certainly a monstrous excess of power; but if the Democrats, on acceding to office, had exhibited as much willingness as their predecessors to give up deserters from the British flag, it is probable that the alleged right of search would have led to no more difficulty under the rule of Jefferson and Madison than under that of Washington and Adams. England took the law into her own hands in far too dictatorial a manner; but she had a real grievance. The Democrats were always opposed to the surrender of British seamen. They saw that the loss of her sailors was weakening England, and in an equal degree strengthening America; and they desired to promote both results by every means in their power. Thus out of a conflict of interests arose the war." (Cassell's History of the United States.) It will be seen that in course of the year an American privateer did some damage to shipping on the Northern coasts of Scotland.

*From the "Inverness Journal."*

1813.

January 1.—The news of the astounding loss of the French army in Russia continues to be the great topic for comment. Bonaparte now, as always—but now more than ever—figures as a despot and destroyer, the scourge of the

human race. It is related with satisfaction that he skulked into Paris at night like a deserter, leaving the miserable remains of his army far behind at Smorgoni and Wilna.

January 15.—At a County meeting on the 8th, at which the Hon. A. Fraser of Lovat presided, it was resolved to raise a subscription for the relief of the suffering people of Russia. At a town meeting on the 11th—Provost Grant in the chair—a similar resolution was adopted.

*Ibid.*—The death is announced of the Right Hon. A. Fraser-Tytler, Lord Woodhouselee, one of the Judges of the Court of Session and of Justiciary. "He formerly held the important situations of Deputy Judge-Advocate for Scotland, and Professor of History in the University of Edinburgh; and was appointed a Judge of the Court of Session in 1802, and of Justiciary in 1811. His lordship was author of several valuable works, both in law and polite literature. He was distinguished as an able and upright Judge, and an elegant writer."

January 29.—The Magistrates and Town Council of Inverness, "with a due regard to the distresses of the lower classes," resolved to grant a premium of one shilling for every boll of meal brought into the Inverness Market for the ensuing six months.

February 5.—Mr John Macandrew was admitted a practitioner in the Sheriff, Commissary, and Burgh Courts of Inverness.

February 12.—The whole of the First Regiment of Local Militia, commanded by the Hon. Colonel A. Fraser of Lovat, volunteered their services for a further period of four years, and that without any bounty. In the next issue it is stated that the complement of the regiment was 1000; that not a man was above 30 years of age; and that the Officer-Commanding had been obliged to decline the services of hundreds who had come forward beyond the number required to complete the regiment.

*Ibid.*—A number of persons detected in malting and distilling contrary to law were brought before the Justices of Peace and fined. Some of the distillers were fined as high as £50, and none less than £20. It was stated that smuggling was carried on to an enormous extent.

February 19.—A number of sheep farms on the estate of Glengarry advertised to let.

*Ibid.*—"Died, at Scorriebreck, in the Isle of Skye, in the 87th year of his age, Malcolm Nicolson, Esq., who, with his predecessors, lineally and without interruption, possessed that



farm for many centuries back. He was possessed of universal benevolence and charity, beloved and esteemed by his family, in which he presided as an affectionate husband, a dutiful father, and faithful friend, and his amiable and endearing qualities will be long remembered and respected by a numerous circle of his friends and acquaintances."

February 26.—Died, at Fortrose, on the 18th inst., the Rev. Andrew Bonniman, A.M., rector of the Academy there. Tribute is paid to his talents, his solid acquirements, and unremitting attention to duty.

Ibid.—At Hadley, in the County of Herts, Mrs Mary Humberston Mackenzie, widow of the late Major Mackenzie, and mother of Lord Seaforth.

March 12.—It is announced that Sir John Macgregor Murray intends to present a copy of Stewart's Gaelic Grammar, lately published, to the Schoolmaster of every Highland parish in Scotland. Those intended for schools throughout the North had already been forwarded.

Ibid.—On the Sunday previous, while the people were assembling in the Church of Rosskeen, a part of the loft, which was crowded, yielded suddenly with a crash, exciting the greatest alarm. In endeavouring to escape, many persons were trampled down and dreadfully bruised. Two women subsequently died, and others were said to be in a hopeless condition.

April 2.—In a circular letter, addressed to the Lords-Lieutenant of the different counties, Government gave notice that after the 24th inst., the services of the greater part of the Volunteer infantry of the country would be dispensed with.

April 16.—A long meeting of Directors of the Royal Academy to discuss charges brought by a correspondent signing "Invernessicus."

May 7.—It is stated that a building in a central part of London, namely, in Cross Street, Hatton Garden, had been purchased for use as a Gaelic Chapel, "wherein divine service is now regularly performed by an ordained clergyman, agreeably to the forms observed in the Highlands." The Duke of Sussex (Earl of Inverness) and the Hon. Colonel Fraser of Lovat each gave a hundred guineas to the funds for the chapel.

May 14.—The Rev. Thomas Bain, A.M., appointed rector of the Fortrose Academy.

Ibid.—At the Balnagown sale of cattle on the 10th inst., a yearling bull sold for upwards of £26, a two-year-old for upwards of £42, and

several heifers for £16 and £17 each. "This breed of Highland cattle has been brought to great perfection on Balnagown Farm, and their reputation is so high that one bull and two heifers were purchased to be sent to Hudson's Bay, and several to the most distant parts of Scotland."

May 27.—"On Friday the 30th last month there was launched at Stornoway, witnessed by a great concourse of people, a fine new brig, about 200 tons burthen, the largest vessel ever built in the Hebrides. She went into the water in the finest style, and immediately on her starting was with the usual ceremonies honoured with the name of Lord Macdonald."

May 28.—Died, at Inverness, on the 22nd, at the age of 45, Colonel John C. Halket Craigie, Commanding the Northern Military District. He seems to have served in the district for 10 years, and was greatly respected.

Ibid.—"An act of intrepidity was performed at Portsmouth on Monday se'enight, which we have peculiar gratification in noticing. Three officers of the Inverness Militia were in a pleasure boat, and when sailing between the prison ships, a sudden current of wind upset the boat, which having heavy ballast, immediately sank. Two of the officers could swim, and they kept themselves upon the surface until boats took them up; but the other was in the most imminent danger of drowning. A French prisoner on board the Crown, named Morand, the moment he saw the officer struggling, jumped off the gangway into the water, and by putting his feet under the officer's body as he was sinking, raised him to the surface, and then held him fast until further assistance was obtained. A proper representation has been made to the Government, and no doubt one part of the brave fellow's reward will be a release from his present situation."

June 4.—Died, at his father's house, near London, Thomas Cockburn Ross, Captain, 11th Portuguese Light Infantry, and Lieutenant in the Queen's, eldest son of John Cockburn Ross of Shandwick, Ross-shire. He had been engaged in the battles of Vimiera, Talavera, the Douro, and other actions in the Peninsula. Although he was unhurt in these actions, his constitution became impaired, and he died in the prime of youth.

Ibid.—Report of a speech in the House of Commons by Mr Charles Grant, jun., M.P. for the Inverness Burghs, in favour of Catholic emancipation. "It had been the boast of Lord Chatham," he said, "that he had sought for

virtue among the mountains of Scotland, and that he had found it. Let them seek for it amidst the marshes of Ireland and they would as surely find it." Mr Grant stated that there were at that moment in the Austrian Army thirty Generals and a number of officers of subordinate rank who were Irish Catholics. "Guilt and shame must certainly attach to any country that could thus refuse to avail itself of the services of its sons."

June 11.—"We have authority to state that in consequence of the support and interest of the House of Cawdor, in the County of Nairn, being given to Sir James Mackintosh, Captain Charles Campbell, of the Navy, disposed of his freehold in that shire."

June 18.—Died, in the Island of Java, on the 29th July 1812, Lieut. Alexander Morrison, of the 78th Regiment, eldest son of the Rev. Mr Morrison, minister of Kintail. He was present with his regiment at the capture of Batavia, and with a subsequent expedition. A brother officer wrote that "he was one of the finest fellows he ever knew."

June 25.—Among the Acts relating to Scotland which received the Royal Assent on the 3rd inst. was the following:—"An Act to amend and enlarge the powers of an Act passed in the 45th year of his present Majesty, for assessing the proprietors of Lands in the County of Ross towards the expense of making and supporting certain Roads and Bridges therein; and of an Act passed in the 47th year of his present Majesty for Regulating and Converting the Statute Labour in the Counties of Ross and Cromarty, and part of the County of Nairn locally situated in the County of Ross; and of an Act passed in the 50th year of his present Majesty for amending and enlarging the powers of the two first-mentioned Acts."

July 2.—Sir James Mackintosh was on the 28th ult. unanimously elected member of Parliament for the County of Nairn, in room of Hugh Rose of Kilarvock, who had accepted the Chiltern Hundreds.

Ibid.—Extract of a letter from a correspondent in Skye:—"It may be worthy of notice in your paper that last spring there were about 1200 persons inoculated in the Isle of Skye with the cowpox, and afterwards with the smallpox, but none of them were affected by it. This I have from the medical gentlemen who inoculated them. There were more than the above number who were not inoculated with the cowpox, all of whom took the smallpox. This is perhaps as strong a proof as has appeared of the benefits derived from vaccination." The ex-

planation of this somewhat extraordinary communication seems to be that the second set were inoculated with smallpox without being vaccinated.

July 9.—Great delight expressed at Wellington's decisive victory over the French at the battle of Vittoria, fought on 21st June. The French on that occasion lost 151 guns, 415 caissons, and all their baggage. It was after this battle that Wellington was made a Field-Marshal.

Ibid.—An American privateer, the *Blockade* of Rhode Island, Manly Swat, commander, captured on the 27th ult. off Cape Wrath, the sloop *Six Sisters*, of Inverness, and the brig *Daphne*, of Kirkwall. She also made several other captures, including a vessel, the *Experiment*, of Dnmfries, laden with timber for Beaulieu. The master of this vessel was at the time in a state of mental derangement, and the privateer allowed her to depart, after sending his surgeon on board to bleed the unfortunate man. He took from the vessel, however, all her charts, books, two muskets, a spy-glass, and some coals. According to the mate of the *Experiment*, the *Blockade* was about 200 tons burthen, mounted 18 long 9-pounders; 2 12-pounders, and 1 32-pounder in the middle of the main deck. Another correspondent described her as mounting 10 guns, with a complement of 70 men. The *Experiment* put into Scalpay Sound, Isle of Skye, on the 29th ult. A Broadford correspondent, who sends the particulars, writes:—"It is remarked here the hardship of the coast being unprotected. We have not a red-coat to turn out, although the Yankees should take it into their heads to annoy us on shore. The local Militia (3rd Inverness) has been dismissed, and the Volunteers also; and the Isle of Skye, though in importance not inconsiderable, is quite defenceless." On the 28th, his Majesty's sloop, *Cherokee*, Captain Ramage, sailed from Thurso in pursuit of the privateer.

Ibid.—Married, at Edinburgh, on 2nd July, Sir David Hunter Blair of Brownhill, Bart., to Miss Dorothy Hay Mackenzie, second daughter of Edward Hay Mackenzie of Newhall and Cromarty. The marriage was celebrated with bonfires on the Cromarty estates.

July 16.—This number contains an account of the famous action fought on 1st June between the American frigate *Chesapeake*, Captain Lawrence, and the British frigate, *Shannon*, Captain Broke. It is worth while quoting the story as told by the Editor of the *Journal* at the time in his own words:—"The action was

fought off Boston, and took place in consequence of a challenge sent by Captain Broke to the American Commander, inviting him to try his strength. The Chesapeake was superior in size, superior in weight of metal, and superior in numbers to the Shannon. She came out fresh from her own port, in all the completeness of preparation, in all the consciousness of superiority, and in all the confidence of conquest. She was attended by several American barks and boats, laden with the friends and countrymen of her crew, eager to witness the battle and the victory; but in 15 minutes after she came into action she was forced to yield to the gallantry of her antagonist. Twelve minutes after the action began our seamen boarded, and three minutes were sufficient to complete the business. This intelligence will be received with feelings of satisfaction, greater, perhaps, than the cause altogether warrants. We know that the result of the contest is precisely what we do and ought to expect from the valour of British seamen—that we have no reason to exult in it—but still it is in a high degree pleasurable to receive this practical demonstration of the truth of what we have ever affirmed, that with anything like equal means, the spirit and skill of our navy is irresistible.” It may be added that American seamen had notable victories to boast of during the war, and the exploit of the Shannon was all the more gratifying to the British. Captain Lawrence, of the Chesapeake, was mortally wounded in the action above recorded, and during the remaining four days of his life, in moments of delirium, he often exclaimed, “Don’t give up the ship.” He was buried at Halifax, in Nova Scotia, with the honours of war, some of the oldest Captains in the British Navy carrying the pall.

July 23.—On the previous Monday night or Tuesday morning, a non-commissioned officer, Sergeant Andrew Cullen, of the 21st Regiment, then stationed at Fort-George, killed his wife by stabbing her with a chisel. He afterwards inflicted severe wounds on himself. Cullen had been intoxicated for some days when he committed the crime.

Ibid.—American privateers continue to infest the West Coast. A vessel belonging to Mr Macdonald, Lochinver, with salt and other stores for the herring fishing, was captured within half-a-mile of his dwelling-house.

Ibid.—The death is announced of Lieut. Colin Mackenzie, of the 71st Regiment, killed at the battle of Vittoria. He was a son of John Mac-

kenzie of Kincaig, Ross-shire, and was much regretted.

July 30.—Died, at Thurso, on the 20th inst., the Rev. William Munro, parochial schoolmaster of Thurso. He is spoken of as a particularly diligent and successful teacher.

Ibid.—On Saturday last a detachment from the 2nd Battalion of the 42nd Regiment, consisting of 70 privates, 4 sergeants, 4 corporals, and 7 officers, embarked on board the Inverness Packet for London, with a view to join their gallant companions in Spain. At this time the Inverness Militia were encamped on Southsea Common.

August 6.—After the inspection of the 1st Regiment of Ross-shire Local Militia, a ball was held at Dingwall, which is described in glowing terms. "Dancing commenced with reels, in which the charming Lady Mackenzie of Avoch shone with unrivalled splendour." Her husband, Sir Alexander Mackenzie, the explorer of the North-West, was also present. "That celebrated and ingenious philosopher, Sir Humphrey Davy," was in the neighbourhood, but was prevented from being present by a severe cold. His wife, however, "the fascinating Lady Davy," was a centre of attraction. The ball was given by Lieut.-Colonel Munro of Culcairn and the officers of the regiment.

August 17.—The Wester and Easter Ross Farmer Clubs held again a united show at Alness. The Morayshire Farmer Club also held a show at Elgin, at which they distributed a hundred guineas in prizes. One of the objects of the latter club was to establish in the County and to bring to its utmost perfection "the true Scots breed of black cattle." [Six weeks are missing from the file after this date.]

October 1.—The Gazette notice recording the fall of St Sebastian is given in this issue.

Ibid.—Thomas Gilzean was this year re-elected Provost of Inverness.

October 15.—Killed in action with the enemy in the river Elbe, Lieutenant David Gray, of the Royal Marines, serving on board his Majesty's ship *Desiree*, and second son of Mr James Gray, merchant, Inverness. He was interred with military honours at Heligoland, and his brother officers, in respect for his memory, ordered a tomb-stone to be placed over his remains.

October 29.—The Marquis of Huntly presented a portrait of his mother, the late Duchess of Gordon, to the Northern Meeting. The members of the Meeting, to show their respect for the Duchess, intended to commission a por-

trait for themselves, but the Marquis of Huntly insisted on making the presentation himself.

Ibid.—“Died, on the 8th of May, at the advanced age of 80, on his estate of Gross Point, near Detroit, in North America, the Hon. Alexander Grant, a member of his Majesty's Executive and Legislative Council of Upper Canada, and for nearly half-a-century Commodore of the fleet on Lake Erie. This excellent man was of the Glenmoriston family, and was a brother to the late Patrick Grant, Esq. of Glenmoriston. He went to America in 1754 as lieutenant in one of the Highland regiments, and was instrumental, from his nautical knowledge, in obtaining the command on Lake Champlain during the war which conquered Canada from France. During the rebellion of the Colonies, he was eminently useful on the upper lakes, and also in administering the government of Upper Canada after the death of General Hunter. He has left one son, a lieutenant in the Canada Regiment, and a numerous family of daughters and grandchildren, who will long cherish the remembrance of a fond and indulgent father.”

November 5.—Andrew Cullen was executed at Inverness on the previous Friday for the murder of his wife. The place of execution is not mentioned. “Cullen was a man of very strong mind, and his ingenuity as a mechanic might have rendered him a valuable member of society, had not his predilection for drinking, which brought him to an untimely end, proved an insurmountable obstacle to the regular prosecution of many excellent designs which he had partially carried into effect.”

Ibid.—Captain John Ross, of the 19th Portuguese, and Lieutenant in the 92nd British Line, fell at Mayo as the head of his company on the 31st August. He was the son of the Rev. John Ross, minister of Rosskeen, and a very promising officer.

November 12.—This number contains the news of the great overthrow of Napoleon in the series of battles at Leipsic in the middle of October. The headings announcing the victory of the Allies occupy nine lines in large type.

Ibid.—The Session of Parliament was opened on Thursday the 4th. The Address in the House of Commons was moved by Lord Compton, and seconded by Mr Charles Grant, member for the Inverness Burghs, “with that eloquence which so particularly distinguishes our member.” The report of Mr Grant's speech occupies more than two columns of the “Journal.” Speaking of the Alliance against Napoleon and the pros-

- pects of peace, the hon. member said—"Anxious as we are to procure peace, let us remember by what means alone such a peace can be obtained as we can safely accept. Let us recollect that it must not be a peace founded upon a compromise of any great interest; upon a dereliction of any sacred principles; the creature of timidity on our part, of insolence and artifice on the part of the enemy. It must be a peace founded on mutual advantage and mutual confidence, and resting on the basis of social order, law, and justice."
- November 26.—Died, on Sunday the 7th inst., at Brahan Castle, the Hon. Francis Mackenzie, second son of Lord Seaforth.
- December 3.—News of Wellington's victory over Soult on the Nivelle.
- December 10.—At the Nairnshire meeting in London a member presented a subscription paper for aiding the work of erecting a pier at Nairn. A sum of £75 was subscribed, and a Committee was appointed to correspond with friends in the North on the subject.
- December 17.—The Marquis of Huntly was married on the 11th inst. to Elizabeth Brodie, only daughter of Alexander Brodie of the Burn. "This happy event took place at Bath, and the numerous friends of the distinguished couple are manifesting their joy on the occasion by public dinners, balls, and bon-fires, throughout the counties of Aberdeen, Banff, and Moray, &c. The marriage is celebrated in the "Journal" in a song of nine stanzas, after the style of Skinner's Tullochgorum. Subsequent issues contain notices of rejoicings in numerous districts of the Highlands.
- Ibid.—Died, at Bught, on the 7th curt., Mrs Jean Baillie, relict of the late Duncan Grant of Bught, in the 82nd year of her age.
- December 24.—Mr Charles Grant, member for the Burghs, was appointed one of the Lords of the Treasury.

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The following paragraph appears in James Suter's Memorabilia:—"1813.—Embankment of Town Lands at the Longman completed. Expense, £494, paid by the Burgh."



## No. VIII.

The year 1814 witnessed the invasion of France by the Allied Armies, the abdication of Napoleon as Emperor of the French, and his temporary exile to Elba. The Act of Abdication was signed at Fontainebleau on the 4th of April 1814. News, however, in those days travelled slowly, and a week later British and French were still fighting five hundred miles from Paris. On the 10th, Wellington defeated Soult at Toulouse. On the 11th the French Marshal evacuated the city, and Wellington, on entering it, found the white flag flying and everybody wearing the white cockade. On the afternoon of the same day messengers arrived from Paris bringing news of Napoleon's abdication and the establishment of a provisional Government in the name of Louis XVIII. It was not, however, until the 18th that Soult, having received an order from Berthier, concluded a convention with Wellington, putting a final stop to hostilities. The war with the United States went on during 1814, but a treaty of peace was signed at Ghent on the 24th of December. The news did not reach the States until after the attack on New Orleans, which was disastrous to the British.

*From the "Inverness Journal,"*

1814.

January 7.—Further notices of rejoicings on the occasion of the marriage of the Marquis of Huntly to Miss Brodie. These notices are from Elgin, Nairn, and Lochaber, and speak of great and general enthusiasm. A set of verses of considerable merit celebrates the qualities of the bridegroom. The following are a couple of stanzas:—

“Where echoes out the martial din,  
Or festive joys are reaped within,  
Or human ills compassion win.  
There shines the noble Huntly.

“The soul that's steel in field of fight,  
The heart that gladdens gay delight,  
The eye that melts at pity's sight.  
Are thine, most noble Huntly.”

January 14.—The Hon. J. F. Campbell, eldest son of Lord Cawdor, was the previous week

- returned without opposition as member of Parliament for the Burgh of Carmarthen.
- Ibid.—Died, on 13th December, Major Maxwell Mackenzie, Lieutenant-Colonel of the 71st Regiment, son of John Mackenzie of Kincaira, Ross-shire. "This gallant officer received his mortal wound in the engagement with the enemy near Bayonne, while nobly cheering and leading on his men to charge the enemy, and thus terminated an honourable life in a glorious death."
- January 21.—Re-election of Charles Grant for the Inverness Burghs on his appointment as one of the Lords of the Treasury.
- Ibid.—Died, at Ardgowan, suddenly, on 5th inst., Lieutenant-Colonel Aeneas Mackintosh, of the 79th Regiment, in the 34th year of his age. He entered the service at the age of 17, and distinguished himself in various campaigns and expeditions in different quarters of the globe. Special mention is made of his gallant conduct at Flushing, at Fuentes d'Honore, and in the attack on Fort San Christoval, where he led the forlorn hope. Lieutenant-Colonel Mackintosh was interred at Greenock with military honours, the Magistrates, officers of the local Militia, and principal gentlemen of the town attending the funeral. He was a son of the late Lachlan Mackintosh of Balnespick, and nephew to Sir Aeneas Mackintosh of Mackintosh, Bart.
- January 28.—"This day were published in octavo, price 16s, boards, Thoughts on the Origin and Descent of the Gael, with an account of the Picts, Caledonians, and Scots; with observations relative to the authenticity of the Poems of Ossian. By James Grant, Esq. of Corrymony, advocate." The object of this work was to show that the Gaels were the aboriginal inhabitants of all the Britannic islands.
- Ibid.—News of the Allied armies pouring across the Rhine into France. "Lord Wellington on the south-west and the whole of their western coast blockaded by English squadrons, affords the unexampled spectacle of an Empire of nearly three thousand miles in circumference entirely surrounded by enemies, of whom 500,000 are advancing against the centre."
- Ibid.—A meeting of heritors was held at Dingwall on the 18th inst. to consider the expediency of applying to Parliament for a revision of the laws regulating the exportation and importation of corn. The meeting objected to restraints on exportation, and to free importation of corn from abroad. They were in favour of a duty "to put the foreign importer on a par with the native farmer;" and when that point

had been reached they wanted the enjoyment of free exportation. A petition on these lines was prepared for presentation to Parliament.

February 11.—“We are happy to learn that the history of Great Britain from the Revolution in 1688 to the French Revolution in 1789, by Sir James Mackintosh, is proceeding, and will be published in course of this season.” This project was not fulfilled, only a portion being published after its author's death. Sir James, however, long busied himself in collecting materials.

February 18.—Died, at Balmagown Castle, on the 8th curt., Lieutenant-General Sir Charles Ross of Balmagown, Bart. “His death is deeply deplored, not only by his family and intimate friends, but by all who had the happiness of being acquainted with him. It is a public loss of no ordinary magnitude.”

*Ibid.*—Died, at the Manse of Dyke, on the 3rd curt., the Rev. David Brichan, D.D., an accomplished scholar and elegant writer.”

February 25.—The river Findhorn overflowed its banks on the 11th in the neighbourhood of Forres. At the Broom of Moy four houses were thrown down and the residents with difficulty rescued. “The soil of three acres of land sown with wheat and the break furrows of several fields have been completely washed away. In short, the loss is so great that it will take the labour of years to make it up.”

March 4.—In this number there is an account of a thaw which took place on the Kyle of Sutherland after six weeks of intense frost. The ice bound up the rivers and Kyle to such an extent “that men, cattle, and waggons might cross the arm of the sea above the bridge, and it was passable also below it as far as Creich.” When the thaw came the ice was broken up into great masses, and jammed among them were 400 logs of wood, brought down by the River Carron. Large fragments of the ice and many of the logs struck the iron arch of the new bridge with great force, and, happily, it stood the strain. [The bridge remained until nearly eighty years afterwards, when it was carried away by another flood.]

*Ibid.*—“Died, at Tongue Manse, on the 5th ult., in the 76th year of her age, much regretted, Mrs Jane Porteous, spouse of the Rev. William Mackenzie, minister of Tongue, and daughter of the Rev. William Porteous, once minister of Rafford, a near relative of the late celebrated Dr Porteous, Bishop of London.” The paragraph goes on to speak of Mrs Mackenzie's piety and poetical talent.

March 25.—There was a proposal at this time on the part of the Earl of Fife to restore and occupy as a residence the Abbey of Pluscarden. An architect from Edinburgh was engaged on a survey of the Abbey.

April 1 to 22.—These numbers are missing from our file. One of them must have contained the news of the abdication of Napoleon, which was signed at Fontainebleau on 4th April.

April 29.—News of the battle of Toulouse, in which Wellington defeated Soult. The battle was fought on the 10th, and the news of Napoleon's abdication had not then been received.

Ibid.—On the previous Friday the town of Inverness was illuminated to celebrate the fall of Napoleon. "Early in the evening a grotesque figure of the 'great captain' was carried through the streets on horseback, to the no small amusement of thousands, and afterwards publicly burned on Clachnacuddin amidst the acclamations of the populace. An immense bon-fire was lighted on an eminence in the neighbourhood of the town, and serving as a signal to the surrounding country, the whole sky was speedily inflamed with the reflection of the fires which blazed on every hill as far as the eye could reach." Neighbouring towns were also illuminated.

Ibid.—A cargo of coals from Brora arrived in Inverness, and were considered to be of excellent quality.

May 6.—It is announced that the Marquis of Stafford has laid off the site of a new town at Brora, and proposes to grant feus for house and garden ground.

May 3.—"Tuesday's Gazette announces the promotion of Lord Wellington to the dignity of a Dukedom by the title of Duke of Wellington."

May 20.—"Despatches were received by Government on Sunday se'enight announcing the arrival of Bonaparte at the Island of Elba."

Ibid.—The Colonels Commandant received circular letters informing them that the local Militia will not be called out for training or exercise during the present year.

Ibid.—"Died, at Cheltenham, on the 17th April, Captain W. Mackenzie, 9th Royal Veteran Battalion, late of the 42nd Regiment; an officer of distinguished merit, who served many years in that corps; was severely wounded in the memorable battle of the 21st March 1801 in Egypt; was one of the standard bearers of that regiment at the battle of Aboukir. The flag he carried was pierced through with ball

- in many places. Those standards are now placed as an emblem of that event in the great hall of Novar House in Ross-shire, the seat of the late Sir Hector Munro, then Colonel of that regiment."
- June 3.—On the 12th ult. the foundation-stone of the Varar bridge was laid by William Chisholm of Chisholm.
- Ibid.—"Died, at Bunchegovie, Stratherrick, on the 14th ult., Captain Alexander Fraser, aged 87. He was an officer in the war of 1757, and may be considered the last survivor of those serving in America under the command of General Wolfe."
- June 17.—Mr J. Mactavish was admitted a Procurator before the Sheriff Court.
- June 24.—"On the 13th ult., after a long and painful sickness, which he endured with the firmness and resignation of a true servant of Christ, died at Waterstein, in the 76th year of his age and 45th of his ministry, the Rev. William Bethune, minister of Duirinish, in the Isle of Skye. His social qualities, amiable manners, and Christian virtues will be long remembered, and his death lamented by his family, by his numerous friends and acquaintances."
- July 1.—The case of Lord Cochrane was at this time engrossing public attention. The "Journal" expressed its conviction that Lord Cochrane was innocent.
- Ibid.—News was received of the loss of a schooner on the west coast of Berhice, with nearly all on board. Among those drowned were Charles Mackintosh, of Dochgarroch; Angus Fraser, of Fort-William, and a Mr Duncan, from Morayshire. From a subsequent notice it appears that the last-mentioned was William Duncan, merchant, Berbice. Angus Fraser was a merchant in Demerara.
- July 8.—Married, at the Manse of Kiltarlity, the Rev. Alexander Flyter, Rothesay, to Elizabeth, eldest daughter of the Rev. Dr Bayne.
- July 15.—Died, in Java, in the previous year, Captain James Macpherson, of the 78th. He seems to have been killed in a fight with the natives. The "Java Government Gazette" contained a poem of more than forty lines to his memory. After celebrating his good qualities, the writer says—
- "Such was the man whom fate ordained to fall  
By dastard creases, tinged in ruffian gall."
- July 22.—Died, at Nairn, on the 18th inst., Colonel William Mackintosh of Millbank, in the 74th year of his age. "Twenty-five years of his life were dedicated to the service of his

King and his country. In every relation, public and private, he never failed to conciliate the good-will and retain the esteem of all who knew him."

Ibid.—Died, in the Island of Java, on the 6th of March 1813, Captain William Macpherson, of the East India Company's service, Commandant of Fort-Nugent. He volunteered his services on the expedition against Batavia, and was mortally wounded in the storming and taking of Fort-Cornelis.

July 29.—It is announced that an establishment under the denomination of the "Caledonian Asylum" is to be instituted in London, under the auspices of the Highland Society, for educating the children of indigent Scotsmen.

Ibid.—"Died, on the 16th inst., at London, whither he had gone for medical advice, Mr Alexander Simpson, aged 61 years, some time Rector of the Grammar School of Inverness, which for many years he taught with approbation and success, and from which he retired about five-and-twenty years ago, to a farm in the neighbourhood, where he lived esteemed and respected. His death is now deeply lamented."

August 5.—At a meeting of the Highland Society of Scotland, attention was called to the subject of kelp, which had fallen so much in price as to hold out no encouragement for its manufacture. It was suggested to the meeting that the establishment of Parish Bank Societies throughout the country would be attended with very beneficial effects. The Society heartily approved of a congratulatory letter, written by desire of the Directors, to Colonel Cameron, younger of Fassifern, a member of the Society, whose conduct while in occasional command of the 92nd, 71st, and 50th Regiments as a brigade, and on other occasions, as the head of the 92nd Regiment, to which he belonged, had been particularly noticed by Lord Hill.

Ibid.—The decision of the Court of Session in a disputed right of presentation between the Crown and the family of Cromarty was affirmed in the House of Lords. By this decision the right of presentation to the parishes of Rosemarkie and Killearnan, which had long been vacant, was vested in Mr Mackenzie of Cromarty.

August 12.—"The ladies of Brussels are so fond of the Scottish Highlanders who are in garrison in their city that having heard of the approaching departure of this corps, they have made application, in the proper quarter, for their continuance."

August 19.—On the 12th of August, Lovat and

his lady were the first to pass over the Beaully Bridge in their carriage. This being the Prince Regent's birthday, they ordered the workmen to be collected to drink his Royal Highness's health.

September 2 and 9.—Died, at Warriston House, near Edinburgh, on the 25th of August, the Hon. William Frederick Mackenzie, only surviving son of Francis, Lord Seaforth, and representative in Parliament for the County of Ross. His remains were interred in Fortrose Cathedral. "The sauvity of his manners, the gentleness of his disposition, and his many private virtues, have embalmed his memory in every heart; while the honest and conscientious discharge of his important public duties in Parliament, claim the approbation and gratitude of his constituents."

September 23.—At the Circuit Court at Inverness, Lord Meadowbank adverted to the state of the Court-room, which he considered greatly too small, and very incommodious and ill-situated, the administration of justice being frequently interrupted by the noise in the street. He recommended the county gentlemen and Magistrates to provide proper accommodation without delay. The Court-house was then in Bridge Street.

October 14.—A Highland officer of the Inverness-shire Militia was tried by Court-Martial at Portsmouth for having given a dance in the barracks on the 17th of June without having received the permission of his Commanding Officer, and for various incidents connected therewith. He was fully acquitted, and the charges were declared to be frivolous and vexatious.

October 21.—Lord Saltoun visited for the first time his estates of Ness Castle and Kinchyle. His visit was celebrated with bon-fires.

October 28.—The Northern Meeting, held the previous week, was marred by unfavourable weather. "In the absence of public amusements, the day was spent in the interchange of visits, and in the display of costly and varied equipages, which paraded the streets in gay profusion." The balls were held as usual.

November 4.—At a meeting of proprietors and others interested in the community of Mulbuie, a Special Committee was appointed to take means to bring about an amicable arrangement for the division of the Common.

Ibid.—At a meeting of freeholders of Ross-shire, held at Tain on the 25th ult., Charles Fraser of Inverallochy and Castle Fraser was unanimously elected member for the County.

*Ibid.*—"Died, at Elgin, on the 22nd ult., in the 84th year of his age, the Rev. John Graut, one of the ministers of that place. In the course of his long life he was indefatigable in the humane discharge of the more important duties of the pastoral office—administering comfort to the distressed and relieving the necessities of the poor. When unoccupied with his official duties, his time was devoted to the acquisition of knowledge; his reading was varied and extensive, his taste chaste, and his judgment correct. Possessed of uncommon powers of memory, he composed an elaborate work on Chronology, which received the approbation of his schoolfellow, the inimitable historian of Charles V., and its publication was alone prevented by a similar work on a similar plan, by which it was anticipated. Though much of his time was devoted to study, his manners betrayed nothing of the restraint or pedantry which characterise the scholar; on the contrary, they were courteous and easy. He was the soul of harmless mirth, could be frolicsome with youth, serious with the sombre, and garrulous with old age."

November 11.—The ploughing match of the Inverness Farmer Society was this year held on the farm of Merkinch, belonging to Messrs Anderson & Kinloch. Twenty ploughs competed. Angus Mackintosh of Holm was president of the Society.

*Ibid.*—Craigellachie Bridge, over the Spey, was completed and opened for traffic.

November 18.—The Nairnshire Farmer Society held its annual ploughing match in a field occupied by Mr Skene, Skenepark. At a meeting thereafter the Secretary produced a communication from the Highland Society regarding the equalisation of weights and measures, and some papers transmitted by Sir John Sinclair relative to his General Agricultural Report of Scotland, "on consideration of which the Society unanimously elected the patriotic Baronet an honorary member, and resolved to purchase a copy of the Report." Sir Samuel Davidson of Cantray was elected President of the Society.

November 25.—The war with the United States still in progress. A severe action at Fort-Erie, in which both sides claim the advantage.

*Ibid.*—The Inverness-shire Farmer Society resolve to take three copies of Sir John Sinclair's General Report of Scotland.

December 2.—It was reported at the Nairnshire meeting in London that £150 had been collected to assist in the erection of a pier at Nairn. The meeting resolved to promote a subscription for



the erection of a monument to the late Mr John Straith, schoolmaster of Nairn.

December 16.—A long correspondence went on in this and other issues on the use of stake-nets. One of the writers made a free use of classical quotations.

December 30.—“It gives us much pleasure to hear that the potato crop has, this season, proved very abundant in the North. The size is in general large. A correspondent informs us that a potato, among many others of nearly equal size, was lately taken up in the neighbourhood of Thurso weighing 29 ounces.”

## No. IX.

The first important item recorded in the year 1815 is the death of Lord Seaforth, the last who bore the title. This was the remarkable man who, as a boy of twelve, by a severe attack of scarlet fever, lost the power of hearing and speaking. In later life he recovered in a measure the use of speech, but his deafness was permanent. His mental gifts, however, impressed all his contemporaries, and in spite of physical defects, he filled important offices. "In 1800 he was appointed Governor of Barbadoes, an office which he retained for six years, after which he held high office in Demerara and Berbice. While Governor of Barbadoes he was for a time extremely popular, and was distinguished for his firmness and even-handed justice. He succeeded in putting an end to the practice of slave-killing in the island, which at that time was of very common occurrence, and deemed by the planters a venial offence punishable only by a small fine of £15. In consequence of his humane proceedings in this matter he became obnoxious to many of the Colonists, and in 1806 he finally left the island." (Mr A. Mackenzie's History.)

Lord Seaforth raised the 78th Highlanders (Ross-shire Buffs) in 1793. He had a family of four sons and six daughters, but all his sons predeceased him. One, a midshipman, died at Brahan in 1813, and the last survivor, William Frederick, M.P. for Ross-shire, died in August 1814. The broken-hearted father soon followed, in January 1815. Sir Walter Scott's lines on the death of Lord Seaforth are well known:—

"In vain the bright course of thy talents to  
wrong,  
Fate deaden'd thine ear and imprison'd thy  
tongue;  
For brighter o'er all her obstructions arose  
The glow of the genius they could not oppose;  
And who in the land of the Saxon or Gael,  
Might match with Mackenzie, High Chief of  
Kintail?

"Thy sons rose around thee in light and in love,  
All a father could hope, all a friend could  
approve;

What 'vails it the tale of thy sorrows to tell?—  
In the springtime of youth and of promise they  
fell!

Of the line of Fitzgerald remains not a male,  
To hear the proud name of the Chief of Kintail."

The title expired with the Chief. It had twice before disappeared for a time, but was revived in 1797. Lord Seaforth's patrimony (diminished by the sale of Lochalsh and Kintail) descended to his daughter Mary, the wife first of Sir Samuel Hood, Vice-Admiral, and second of the Right Hon. James Stewart, nephew of the seventh Earl of Galloway, who assumed the name of Mackenzie, and was successively Governor of Ceylon and Lord High Commissioner of the Ionian Islands. Sir Samuel Hood died at Madras on 24th December 1814, about a fortnight before his father-in-law, Lord Seaforth.

In 1815 a Corn Bill was passed, forming the starting point of a conflict which did not terminate until 1846. During the previous forty years the Corn Laws varied with the times. The long conflict with Napoleon produced war prices. "Wheat rose in 1801 to the unprecedented price of £5 19s 6d, and, except in 1803, its average price did not fall below 62s a quarter for twenty years." With the first abdication of Napoleon there was a decline in the price of corn, and an immediate resort was made to protection to keep up the rates. A law was passed in 1815 prohibiting the importation of all foreign wheat when the price was below 80s a quarter, and all Colonial wheat when the price was below 67s. "Other kinds of corn were dealt with on the same principles, but the prices of course varied."

The year 1815 witnessed the final downfall of Napoleon and the beginning of the long European peace.

In the second half of 1815 there are a good many notes and incidents of local interest. As the year began with the death of the last Lord Seaforth, it closed with the death of the Hon. Archibald Fraser of Lovat, the last surviving son of the famous Lord Simon of the '45. The sons of the Hon. Archibald Fraser, like those of Lord Seaforth, predeceased their father, and the succession went to the present family, to whom the title was restored. A lady whose name is associated with our literary annals, Mrs Elizabeth Rose of Kilravock, also died towards the close of 1815.

*From the "Inverness Journal."*

1815.

- January 13.—A reward of 25 guineas is offered for the apprehension of a carrier, who had been committed to the jail at Forres on a charge of theft, and had managed to escape.
- January 20.—Died, at his house in Charlotte Square, Edinburgh, on the 11th curt., the Right Hon. Francis, Lord Seaforth, his Majesty's Lieutenant for the County of Ross. "The death of this distinguished nobleman, in the 60th year of his age, although the rapid decline of his health during the last two years must have led to the expectation of that event, will give birth to very general feelings of sorrow and regret. The wonderful power of his mind, undiminished even by the privation of the sense of hearing, the stores of information which he had acquired in almost every branch of science, and his rare proficiency in several, his delightful talents for society, the nobleness of his person and elegance of his manners, the richness of his imagination, and his faculty of diffusing grace and lustre over every topic, whether of instruction or amusement, will be long remembered, but with peculiar fondness and deeper regret by those who had the happiness to enjoy his intimate friendship; and alas! by those related to him by still dearer ties, who had access to know the many virtues of his benevolent heart, of which his other qualities were but the decorations and embellishments."
- Ibid.—Died, on Tuesday, 17th inst, John Mackintosh of Aberarder, many years Provost of Inverness, aged 74 years. The previous day he attended the funeral of his sister, Miss Christian Mackintosh, and seemed in his usual health. The obituary notice speaks highly of his piety, kindness, and beneficence.
- February 3.—"The Inverness Packet, Captain Mann, just arrived at Burghead, made an extraordinary passage from Gravesend in the short space of 70 hours. She outstripped the mail by 34 hours."
- February 10.—The remains of the late Lord Seaforth were on the previous day interred in the family vault at Fortrose.
- February 17.—This number contains a long list of premiums awarded by the Highland Society of Scotland in the Highlands and Islands for bringing land into arable culture, and for improving stock.
- February 24.—There is notice of a veteran named Alexander Campbell or Iverach, residing in Glenalvie, Ross-shire, who was said to have

reached the age of 116. Six Ross-shire gentlemen in London contributed a guinea each to enable him to dress in tartan and regale himself with a drop of liquor. The Editor was requested by the minister of Kincardine to announce Iverach's receipt of the bounty, and to express his thanks. "The veteran is quite well, and prays for as many days to each of his benefactors as he has seen, and an equal portion of health. He longs for the weather getting a little milder, that he may take a walk to see his friends at Gladfield and the Manse (40 miles only), and tell them of the tide of riches that has set in upon him. He danced two reels at the last Kincardine cattle fair, and a few days ago entered as a scholar in the Gaelic School at Glencalvie. It is supposed he is the oldest Campbell alive."

March 10.—The Practical Farming Society of Ardersier and Petty held their annual ploughing match at Little Flemington, occupied by Mr Tolmie. Eighteen ploughs competed.

Ibid.—"Died, at Forres, on the 25th February last, in the 50th year of his age, James Straith, Esq., for many years an eminent medical practitioner at that place. This gentleman was distinguished, throughout the course of a long and laborious practice, for the unweared exercise of great professional skill and active benevolence.

March 17.—This number contains an account of Napoleon's escape from Elba. "This extraordinary man, from the effects of whose baneful influence the nations of Europe are just beginning to recover, has again made his appearance in France." The same number records the passing of a Corn Bill through the House of Commons, and the occurrence of riots in London. The bill soon afterwards passed the House of Lords.

March 24.—News of Napoleon's arrival and reception in Paris, and preparations to send British troops to the Netherlands. A County meeting at Inverness voted a loyal address to the Prince Regent. It concluded with the words—"We prepare again for the struggle, and join the shout of nations—'Death to the Tyrant—Peace to human kind.'"

March 31.—The goodwill, copyright, and plant of the "Inverness Journal" were advertised to be sold by public roup on the 15th of April.

April 14.—At a meeting on the 11th, it was resolved to establish an Inverness Parish or Savings Bank. This was the second meeting that considered the subject, the first having been thinly attended. The project was initiated by a Committee of the Inverness Farmers' So-

ciety. The bank was to be open every Saturday night in the kitchen of the Northern Meeting Rooms. Among the directors were Sheriff Fraser Tytler, Mr Mackintosh of Holm, Mr Mackintosh of Raigmore, Mr Macgillivray of Dunmaglass, Mr Inglis of Kingsmills, Mr Phineas Mackintosh, Kinmylies, and Mr Peter Anderson, solicitor.

Ibid.—“Died here, on the 5th curt., regretted by few, the Inverness Assemblies.” These were dancing parties among the local gentry.

April 21.—It is announced that the “Inverness Journal,” in consequence of the late proprietor’s death, had passed into other hands. The number bears that the paper is now published, for himself and the other proprietors, every Friday, by Mr James Beaton. The late James Suter says that £2400 was paid for the goodwill of the paper.

April 28.—The Inverness Town and Savings Bank was opened on the preceding Saturday with gratifying success. Upwards of £160 was paid in within two hours.

Ibid.—It is stated that the Magistrates have it in view to improve the waste ground belonging to the community, situated on the east side of the River Ness, opposite the Island. “We beg leave to suggest that it would materially add to the beauty and interest of the scene were the Island, in as far as the wood admits, planted with ornamental evergreens and shrubs, and were rows of trees placed along the walk on the bank, so as in due time to afford a shade from the noon-day heats and from the damps of evening. Should the intended improvement be carried into effect, it will be necessary for the Farmer Society to select another stance for the cattle market, heretofore held on the strip of ground in question.” This gives an indication of the site of the market. It was probably held either on the low ground, afterwards formed into another island by the water-lade, or a little further out on the Dores Road.

May 12.—At a meeting on the previous Friday, a Northern Horticultural Society was instituted. The formation of the Society was expected to extend and improve the knowledge of gardening in the North of Scotland.

Ibid.—On the previous Wednesday the annual meeting of the Inverness Auxiliary Bible Society was held in the Parish Church. The collection amounted to about £35, exclusive of about £55 of annual subscriptions.

Ibid.—“Married, at Sandaig of Knoydart, upon the 5th of May, Lieutenant Ronald Macdonell,

- tacksman of that place, to Miss Catherine Macdonell of Laurg. This veteran is in the 95th year of his age, and as stout and vigorous as most military men at the age of 60. He occasionally rides after breakfast, as a piece of exercise, 30 miles. He is one of those gentlemen who was an officer under the Chief of the Clan during the troubles in the year 1745; and was not only present, but also bore a particular share in every engagement which then took place in behalf of the exiled family, and upon many occasions received the thanks of the Prince for his activity and courage. He has since been in the service of George II., and is now on half-pay in the service of George III."
- May 19.—A Savings Bank was established at Cawdor, with Mr Stables, factor for Lord Cawdor, as treasurer.
- Ibid.—A Society was established in Inverness for the suppression of begging in the town and parish. A sum of £429 was collected for the first year, which was to be disbursed in weekly allowances; and any pensioner found begging was to forfeit all claims on the fund.
- Ibid.—The Magistrates of Inverness were considering a scheme to supply Inverness with water from the Leys.—The proprietors of the County of Nairn had resolved to carry through the great turnpike road to the confines of the County of Inverness. A line passing through the village of Auldearn was, with some trifling deviations, adopted.
- May 26.—"On Tuesday last a discovery of an illicit distillery was made, by several Excise officers, in Abriachan. On attempting to destroy the materials, the Excisemen were opposed by the smugglers, who, placing themselves in a menacing attitude, were soon joined by such a number of their neighbours as induced their opponents to sound a retreat. On Wednesday a part of the Militia from this town was procured to assist the officers in the execution of their duty; but before they could reach the haunt of the smugglers, neither foe nor spoil could be found."
- Ibid.—A good deal of discussion went on at this time on the subject of Highland distillation. At an Inverness County meeting on the 1st of May (noticed on the 5th), a memorial circulated by Lowland distillers was produced by the Convener, "the apparent and ostensible object of which was to put the Scotch and Irish distiller on an equal footing, but its real purpose is obviously to repeal the statute 54, George III., cap. 172, by which the benefit of free export was allowed to the Highland distiller." On this

subject communications were made to the member for the County and to the Conveners of other counties. In the issue of the 26th there is an advertisement giving the resolutions of a meeting of distillers, held in the County of Clackmannan, declaring that they do not object to a free intercourse of spirits between the Highlands and Lowlands of Scotland. "The distinction of Lowland and Highland line was a boon granted to the Highland districts, at the request of those interested, in order that they might be enabled to supply themselves with spirits at a cheap rate, and from barley of their own growing." The Lowland distillers say that they are far from wishing to deprive the Highlands of this advantage, but "they think themselves warranted in demanding that the Highland distillers, claiming to be admitted into the Lowland market, shall work in all respects under the same law as they do in the Lowlands." The "Journal," commenting on the controversy, says "that we believe many persons in this county would embark their capital in distillation and cheerfully pay the South country duties, if stills on a small scale were permitted and free access continued to the South country markets."

June 2.—It is announced that a Highland Society has been established in Inverness, to co-operate in the work of the Highland Societies in London and Edinburgh. The first President was the Hon. Colonel Fraser of Lovat, and the Vice-Presidents were the Lords-Lieutenant of the Northern Counties. Mr Peter Anderson was secretary and Mr Edward Fraser, treasurer.

Ibid.—From a paragraph on the incidence of new stamp duties, it appears that Sheriffs-Substitute were at this time generally the distributors of stamps.

June 9.—An Athenæum was established in Inverness, "wherein sixteen newspapers and all the best periodical publications are taken in."

Ibid.—"The first dinner of the Highland Society, to which the President appropriately contributed a couple of fine Beany salmon, was held in Bennet's Hotel on Monday last, where its members passed a pleasant and joyous evening. Its convivial parties were intended to commence on the birthday of our Sovereign, and this happening on Sunday, they commenced on the succeeding day." The same number mentions a donation to the Horticultural Society from Brodie of Brodie, who is described as an "eminent botanist."

Ibid.—A paragraph is devoted to Mr William Mackintosh, son of Mr Campbell Mackintosh,



Town-Clerk, who was in the Civil Service of the East India Company, and died at sea in the previous October. We are told that after an excellent education at home, "Mr Mackintosh continued his studies in Oriental Literature for several years at the college established at Fort-William [Calcutta] for the education of young gentlemen intended for the higher offices in the civil establishment of the East India Company." The paragraph proceeds— "at two successive examinations of this College, the gold medals allotted to the most distinguished scholar were conferred on Mr Mackintosh; but his studies were unfortunately pursued with an eagerness which so far impaired his health as to render a temporary residence in Europe necessary for its re-establishment. His death occurred when on his return to India, and on the eve of his engaging in the duties of public life, for which he was well qualified by great natural abilities, cultivated with assiduous care. As a scholar, Mr Mackintosh's requirements were extensive, ranging through every department of science, and comprehending whatever is valuable in European literature or captivating in Oriental poetry. He possessed an accurate knowledge of the Persian and other Eastern languages, and his poetical versions of Hafiz (with which he sometimes amused his leisure hours) discover much delicacy of taste, smoothness of versification, and facility of expression."

Ibid.—At this time it was proposed to publish another newspaper in Inverness, to be called "The Northern Star." The project excited comment in the "Journal."

Ibid.—In the same number there is a long article on Local Manufactures. It seems that the Wool Factory previously established had failed, but the writer urges another venture, to be undertaken with greater skill and attention, and with larger capital. Even if the manufacture of cloth were not attempted for some time, it is suggested that wool-stapling would be of considerable importance. The writer describes the change in the rural economy of the Highlands which had taken place during the previous twenty years, chiefly by the introduction of sheep, and contends that it has proved beneficial.

June 16.—Another paragraph on the Highland Society of Inverness states that it is a branch of the London Society, and instituted by commission from the Duke of Kent to the Hon. Archibald Fraser of Lovat. The members were to be admitted by ballot, the fee to be ten guineas, or an annual payment of £1 11s 6d.

The chief objects of the Society were—(1) To preserve the language, martial spirit, dress, music, and antiquities of the ancient Caledonians; (2) To preserve from oblivion the valuable remains of Gaelic literature; (3) To establish and support Gaelic schools; (4) To relieve distressed Highlanders at a distance from their native homes; and (5) To promote the improvement and general welfare of the northern parts of Great Britain. There were to be quarterly meetings, and an anniversary meeting every year on 2nd May.

*Ibid.*—Died, at Madras, on 24th December, when on the eve of returning to his native country, Vice-Admiral Sir Samuel Hood, K.B., and Naval Commander-in-Chief in India. He was married in 1804 to Mary, daughter of the last Lord Seaforth, afterwards the Hon. Mrs Stewart Mackenzie. The obituary notice cites several instances of Sir Samuel Hood's skill, gallantry, and generous character. Like Nelson, he lost an arm in the service of his country, the wound being received in an action off the Coast of France, in which Sir Samuel captured a French squadron of four fine frigates. When commanding the *Juno* at Toulon he had to extricate his vessel from a difficult position, the operation being greatly helped by the dexterity of the third lieutenant. To this officer, Sir Samuel, in his despatch, gave the entire credit, declaring that the extrication of the *Juno* was due exclusively to the third lieutenant's "admirable presence of mind and skilful exertion." When stationed on one occasion off Jamaica he saw a schooner foundering in a gale. "He ordered a boat to be manned for her relief; the danger was so great that even the hearts of British seamen were appalled, and no volunteers offered: Sir Samuel exclaimed that he was incapable of ordering others on a service of danger which he would not be the first to share, and instantly leapt into the boat. The spirit of the Commander dispelled the terrors of the crew: he was followed by a sufficient number, and had the heart-cheering happiness of being thus the means of saving so many of his fellow-creatures. The House of Assembly of Jamaica were so enraptured with this heroic and humane act that they immediately met and voted him a sword value two hundred guineas."

June 23.—A long advertisement states that at a meeting held at Inverlochy on 15th June, a number of Highland gentlemen had formed themselves into "a pure Highland Society, in support of the true Dress, Language, Music, and Characteristics of our illustrious and

ancient race in the Highlands and Isles of Scotland, with their genuine descendants wherever they may be." The promoter of the movement was Colonel Macdonnell of Glengarry, and ninety-seven members were enrolled under the title of "The Society of True Highlanders." The proceedings of the meeting were conducted in Gaelic. One of the rules was that all real Chiefs were to be hereditary Vice-Presidents, from whom the President was to be annually chosen by a majority of votes, "be he in or out of the peerage."

*Ibid.*—In levelling a hillock on the farm of Charleston, near Inverness, the tenant, Captain Macintyre, found, at a depth of six feet, a cist enclosing human bones. "From the appearance and touch of the soil, and the formation of the hillock, which is of conical form, and about fifty feet in diameter, it is inferred that this tumulus was an ancient cemetery."

June 30.—This number, which no doubt contained an account of the battle of Waterloo, is missing from our file. This is not surprising, as there must have been an unprecedented demand for the paper, and any superfluous copies would have been bought up. Along with the "Journal" there is in our file a series of another newspaper, the "Edinburgh Correspondent," which was published three times a-week. The number of 24th June contains the official announcement of the "Complete Defeat of Bonaparte," issued from Downing Street on 22nd June, which runs as follows:—"The Duke of Wellington's despatch, dated Waterloo, the 19th of June states that on the preceding day Bonaparte attacked with his whole force the British line, supported by a corps of Prussians, which, after a long and sanguinary conflict, terminated in the complete overthrow of the enemy's army, with the loss of one hundred and fifty pieces of cannon and two Eagles. During the night, the Prussians, under Marshal Blucher, who joined in the pursuit of the enemy, captured 60 guns and a large part of Bonaparte's baggage. The Allied Armies continue to pursue the enemy. Two French Generals were taken." The same paper on the 29th announces the abdication of Napoleon.

July 7.—On Monday last, Captain Macintyre discovered another stone coffin in the little hillock on the farm of Charleston, of the same description and nearly in the same position with the one lately found there.

July 14.—There is great rejoicing, "joy in grief," over the exploits of the Highland Brigade at the battle of Waterloo. The suggestion is made

that subscriptions should be raised for the benefit of widows and children.

Ibid.—The Court of Session decides in favour of the life tenure, by Mr Adam, of the office of Rector of the Inverness Royal Academy. Lord Meadowbank, in giving his opinion, said—"I concur completely with my brother, Lord Robertson, that it is *contra bonos mores* to appoint a man to a school during the pleasure of a set of gentlemen. It is using him like a shoeblick, and worse, for it leaves him to the disposal of a numerous open body, who always, to a proverb, have no conscience."

Ibid.—Agents of the London Missionary Society visited the North and obtained liberal contributions and donations. In Inverness the sums amounted to £43 18s 1½d, and in Dingwall, Tain, and Ferrintosh to £53, making a total of £96 18s 1½d.

Ibid.—Lord Macdonald is now erecting a magnificent mansion at his family seat of Armadale in Sleat. In the Island of Raasay inexhaustible quarries have been discovered of freestone, of a beautiful pale white colour, which bears the finest polish. Mr Macleod, the proprietor, is now building an elegant mansion, the walls of which are to be formed of this native freestone. The roads, piers, and villages which are now in progress in Skye, will soon render it one of the most interesting and improved, as it is already the most valuable, of the Hebridean islands."

July 22. — "The Edinburgh Correspondent" of this date announces the ordination of the Rev. James Grant as parish minister of Nairn. The same paper contains a long letter on the controversy between Highland and Lowland distillers. It is stated that the object of the Lowland distillers was to secure "that no two districts shall have free intercourse in spirits in which their manufacture is not placed under exactly the same regulations," and that this change was required to meet competition, not from the Highlands, but from Ireland. The Irish distiller, it seems, had advantages which enabled him to undersell the manufacturer both in the Irish and Scotch markets. As regards the Highlands, the writer says — "The permission to manufacture spirits for their own consumption in smaller stills and at lower duty than in the Lowlands, was granted, and was, I believe, at the time received as a boon by the Highland districts; but the effects of the law were not found to be such as had been anticipated, and its provisions were wholly superseded by the 54 Geo. III. c 172, which neither

permits distillation at lower duties nor grants to the Highland any privilege not enjoyed by the Lowland distillers, except the use of smaller stills." The points at issue in the controversy are rather confused, and only a specialist on the subject could at this distance of time unravel them. Highland gentlemen, however, seem to have been greatly impressed with the evils of smuggling, which, according to the writer of the above letter, had already gone far to effect the degradation of a noble people. Illicit distillation was connived at by farmers in remote districts, who had no market for their barley except among smugglers. The remedy proposed by the County Authorities was the further multiplication of small stills and the reduction of duties on the manufacture. Lowland distillers argued that the interests of the two districts would not clash if they could find a common basis for a free market.

July 22.—The "Edinburgh Correspondent" of this date contains the following communication, addressed by the Duke of Otranto to Lord Castlereagh:—"I have the honour to acquaint your lordship that Napoleon Bonaparte, not being able to escape from the English cruisers, or from the guards kept upon the coasts, has taken the resolution of going on board the English ship *Bellerophon*, Captain Maitland." This resolution was carried out, and in due course Napoleon was exiled to St Helena.

August 4.—The "Inverness Journal" of this date (from which we resume quotations) contains an account of the arrival of the *Bellerophon* at Plymouth on 26th July with Bonaparte on board. An officer on board the *Superb*, in a letter of the 18th July, from Basque roads, writes:—"The disturber of the world is ours; I have been some hours in his company, and have had conversation with him: knowing his character as an individual, his fame as a General, and his conduct as an Emperor, the mind is lost in astonishment in seeing these in the person of a stout, inanimate, and plain-looking man, without a feature or expression of countenance indicative of anything that can make an impression on the mind. His delivery is quick, and his ideas flow most rapidly; he converses on all subjects."

*Ibid.*—The daughter and heiress of the late Lord Seaforth, Lady Hood, called by a correspondent Lady Hood Mackenzie, arrived at Stornoway on the 17th July, on a visit to the Lews. She met with a cordial reception. "The building of a public quay, so much wanted in this place, had been commenced by the public spirit of the

merchants, shipowners, and other inhabitants, and to this useful undertaking Lady Mackenzie contributed with a liberality far exceeding their most sanguine anticipations. She also gave liberal donations to the poor of the four extensive parishes of which the estate consists, over and above the annual sum allotted by the Seaforth family for their support." The improvement on the harbour of Stornoway mentioned in this letter is spoken of as an object of great and general importance.

*Ibid.*—The gentlemen of Nairnshire, in commemoration of Waterloo and other British victories, resolved to institute a Society to be called "The Nairnshire Patriotic Club."

*Ibid.*—On Tuesday, 11th July, the foundation-stone of Gray's Hospital, Elgin, was laid with Masonic honours. It is stated that Dr Alexander Gray, a native of Elgin, having received the elements of his education there, and studied medicine under Dr Thomas Stephen, left that place and settled as a practitioner in India. There he acquired an ample fortune, and cherishing a warm attachment to the place of his nativity, where he had also spent the days of his youth, he left by his will £20,000 for building and endowing an hospital at Elgin. The architect of the building was Mr Gillespie, Edinburgh.

*Ibid.*—"The Convention of Royal Burghs have voted £600 to be applied for making a canal at Dingwall, and improving the pier and harbour of the ancient burgh. These improvements are to be conducted by the inhabitants, aided by the Parliamentary Commissioners for Highland Roads and Bridges, and the voluntary contributions of the gentry in the neighbouring country."

August 11.—The Highland Society of Scotland advertises a series of resolutions adopted at a meeting on 3rd July, expressing its admiration and gratitude for "the late most glorious achievements in Flanders." The Duke of Wellington and Prince Blucher were elected honorary members of the Society. Special gratification was expressed at the valour of the "National Corps," including the Highland regiments, and the Secretary was instructed to convey the grateful thanks of the Society, subscribed by its President, the Duke of Buccleuch, to the commanding officer of each of these regiments, with a request to communicate the same to their respective corps. The members of the Society were recommended to contribute to the subscriptions set on foot for the relief of the wounded and of widows and

children. The following resolution appears among the others:—"That while the Society deeply laments the loss of many of their gallant countrymen who have fallen on this memorable occasion, it feels itself particularly called upon to offer to Ewen Cameron, Esq. of Fassiefern, its warmest sympathy for the affliction which he must feel in the loss of his eldest son, their late member, Colonel John Cameron, of the 92nd Regiment, so honourably distinguished on the present and former occasions, and whose meritorious services had already attracted the attention of the Society; nor can the Society pass over in silence the name of Lieut.-Colonel Miller, of the 1st Regiment of Guards, also one of its members, whose loss as an officer of the highest promise is deeply regretted."

Ibid.—The following is a specimen of advertisements which were issued by the proprietors from time to time:—"The Hon. Mrs Hay Mackenzie, being desirous to give the game a jubilee on her estates in Coigach, Strathpeffer, and New Tarbet, in the County of Cromarty, requests no gentleman will ask leave to shoot there this season."

Ibid.—The Inverness Farmer Society continues to hold its meetings and competitions for crop and stock.

August 18.—Premiums offered for stock and crop by the Isle of Skye Farming Club. It is stated that this Club was formed in January 1812, under the patronage of Lord Macdonald and Macleod of Macleod, to encourage the improvement of black cattle, sheep, and draught horses.

Ibid.—A meeting of the County of Nairn was held to raise subscriptions for the relief of the wounded and of the families of the killed at the battle of Waterloo. Nearly £60 was subscribed. Colonel Rose of Kilravock was appointed treasurer of the fund.

August 25.—An appeal was made for funds for the improvement of the Northern Infirmary. The amount required was £850.

Ibid.—The Commissioners and Trustees for Fisheries, Manufactures, and Improvements in Scotland awarded a number of premiums for promoting fisheries. These premiums were "for the cod, ling, and tusk fishing," and "for sun fish caught and oil extracted from them." In connection with the cod fishing, James Ritchey, of Fraserburgh, as the outfitter of the *Ariel* of Lochniver (probably Lochinver) was awarded £60, and other awards ranged from £45 to £10. Under the second heading ("sun fish caught," &c.), Donald Campbell, master of the

- boat Mary of Barra, was awarded £14, and a number of other premiums went to the same island, varying from £9 to £2 10s. There were no competitors for premiums on dog fish.
- Ibid.—“Died, at the Manse of Kiltearn, on the 28th ult., deeply lamented by his family and a numerous circle of respectable friends, the Rev. Harry Robertson, D.D., in the 67th year of his age, and 44th of his ministry.”—“Died, at Ness Cottage, on the 17th inst., Mrs Mackintosh, widow of the late Provost William Mackintosh of this place.”
- September 1.—On the previous Wednesday, Mr Joseph Lancaster, the founder of the system of education which bore his name, lectured in Inverness. He afterwards addressed several other meetings.
- Ibid.—A notice of the career and character of the late Sir Samuel Hood taken from the “*Bombay Courier*.”
- September 8.—At a Court of Commissioners of Supply held at Tain a farmer was fined £20 for shooting without a licence.
- Ibid.—On the 30th ult., the Northern Missionary Society held a meeting at Tain, and a sum of £101 was collected.
- September 22.—At the Circuit Court several persons from the Parish of Kincardine, in Ross-shire, were tried on a charge of disinterring a dead body buried in a chapel and throwing it into a hole on the seashore, and for other riotous proceedings in connection with the case. The people evidently believed that the death was one of suicide. There were certain flaws in the evidence, which resulted in the acquittal of the prisoners. At the same Court a Catholic priest from Fort-Augustus was tried under an old statute for having celebrated a marriage, the charge being that such a celebration on the part of a Catholic priest was irregular, and exposed him to penalties. The trial was long, and led to animated discussion between the Advocate-Depute, the Judges, and the Counsel for the defence, Mr J. P. Grant of Rothiemurchus. The jury returned a verdict of not proven. There was much complaint on account of the confusion caused by the limited accommodation in the Court-house.
- September 29.—“Drowned, on 22nd May 1814, at the mouth of the River Columbia, in the Northern Pacific Ocean, Donald Mactavish, Esq., a native of Stratherrick, and one of the partners of the North-West Company of Canada.” Mr Mactavish had spent twenty-four years in Upper Canada, and had been very successful in promoting the business of the



Company and securing the good-will of the Indian tribes and their chiefs. "His enterprising genius led him to project and attempt an expedition across the Continent of North America for the purpose of establishing a connection with China; and after having escaped innumerable perils, he and six of his companions were unfortunately lost near Cape Disappointment."

October 6.—The first turf of the Dingwall Canal was cut on the 15th of September.

Ibid.—The Common Good of the Burgh of Inverness, exposed to public auction, realised the following sums:—Petty Customs and pontage of the Old Bridge, £255; pontage of the New Bridge, £34; Anchorage and Shore Dues, £360; Hand-bell and grass of the Chapel-yard, £57; small weights, £5; total, £711.

October 13.—"The Society of True Highlanders" met at Inverlochry on the 5th inst. Glengarry was re-elected President, and Mr Ewen Mac-lachlan, librarian at Aberdeen, was appointed Gaelic secretary. Marshal Macdonald, Duke of Tarentum, was elected an honorary member.

October 20.—Report of rejoicings at Altyre and Gordonstoun on the marriage of Sir William Gordon-Cumming to Miss Campbell, daughter of the late Colonel Campbell of Shawfield.

November 3.—A correspondent of the "Journal" suggests that a race course should be formed at Dunean Croy in connection with the Northern Meeting.

November 10.—News of the death of Joachim Murat, ex-King of Naples, who made a descent on the Coast of Calabria, and was captured, tried by Court-Martial, and shot. Murat was reckoned the best cavalry officer in Europe. The lines of Byron may be recalled—

"While the broken line enlarging  
Fell or fled along the plain,  
There be sure was Murat charging,  
There he ne'er shall charge again."

Ibid.—Died, at Blargymore, Badenoch, on the 19th September, Ensign John Macpherson, late of the 78th Regiment, aged 38 years. He fought under General Wolfe at the taking of Quebec in 1759.

Ibid.—Report of the Nairnshire meeting in London, and of the movement to erect a monument to Mr John Straith. Liberal subscriptions were announced.

November 24.—The Crown presented the Rev. Thomas Munro to the Church and Parish of

Kiltearn, vacant by the death of the late Dr Robertson.

December 8.—A grand supper and ball given at Fort-William on 29th November. "Many of the heroes of Waterloo were present, amongst whom we observed with pleasure the gallant Colonel Alexander Cameron, of the 95th Regiment, whose wounds were sufficiently recovered to allow him to appear as the chief support of the meeting, although he was unable to join in the mazy rounds of the dance. The thanks of all were due to the venerable Captain Patrick Campbell, of the 42nd, who, resuming the days of his youth, conducted, as presiding manager, the arrangements for the evening."

December 15.—"In our obituary of the 1st inst., we intimated the death of Mrs Elizabeth Rose of Kilravock, a lady one of whose least claims to respect was her being the lineal representative of a family distinguished for several centuries in this part of the country. The powers of her mind and the virtues of her heart acquired for her a higher degree of veneration than the longest line of ancestry could inspire. Her understanding, naturally powerful, was highly cultivated, and she aided and improved a memory originally tenacious by a constant habit of committing to writing the substance of her various and extensive reading. With a mind so richly stored, and a rare felicity of expression, she excelled in conversation—never, however, displaying to the prejudice of another that superiority she was well known to possess. To the poor she was ever kind and bountiful, and in her domestic circle affectionate and indulgent to the utmost that a clear sense of duty permitted." This lady entertained Burns at Kilravock in 1787, and corresponded with him. Mr Bain, in his History of Nairnshire, says of her: "Amidst all the business and social cares of her life, she never lost her early love of literature. The names of the books she reads are carefully noted in her diary each day, and the periodical arrival of the box of books from Isaac Forsyth, the Elgin bookseller, or a parcel of the latest literature from Edinburgh, gives her infinite pleasure." Mrs Rose died at the age of 68.

Ibid.—"Died, at his house in Knoydart, on Monday the 27th of November last, Mr Ranald Macdonell, Skamadale, Ensign on the retired list of Captain Rose's Independent Company of Veterans, in the ninety-first year of his age, respected and admired as a genuine Highlander of the old school, and quite unmatched in the general circle of his acquaintance. He followed

the fortunes of Prince Charles Stuart from Prestonpans to Culloden, and served with distinguished zeal in both these actions, for which he afterwards suffered banishment to India for seven years, during which period he served in the Hussars. When returning to England, the vessel in which he sailed happened to be boarded by a French man-of-war, before Ranald was aware of what was passing on deck and had furnished himself with a cutlass; but he, darting like an eagle among the victors, actually retook the British ship, killing, single-handed, all the astonished Frenchmen who attempted to withstand his athletic rage, and driving the rest over the vessel broadside into the sea. His retentive memory and mental faculties were spared him till within a few days of his last; and till above ninety he had the use of his powerful limbs. His father, his brother, and his nephew, as well as himself, all served the Prince at the same time, and were personally known to H.R.H.; the father had, however, drawn his first sword with his Chief, Glengarry, under Viscount Dundee, in the battle of Killiecrankie, who had the Royal Standard entrusted to his care, and commanded the whole of the Clan Donnuill, drawn up as of old on the right of the army, which was composed almost entirely of the Highland Clans. The mortal remains of this veteran were deposited with the dust of his fathers in Killechoan on Friday the 1st of December, leaving a wife, three daughters, many grandchildren, and several great-grandchildren to bewail his death; exclusive of sons who had fallen in the service of their country, two of whom had followed the young Macdonell, in the year 1792, into the 1st Fencible Regiment, thence into the Glengarry (or 1st British) Fencibles, and from that into the line." This was surely the same veteran whose marriage was recorded in the previous May although he was then called Ronald, and he was said to be in his 95th year.

December 22.—This number records the death of the Hon. Archibald Fraser of Lovat, proprietor of the Lovat Estates, and last surviving son of Simon of the '45. Born in August 1736, he had completed his 79th year. The obituary notice in the "Journal" is as follows:—"On Friday the 8th inst., the Honourable Archibald Fraser of Lovat, Colonel Commandant of the First Regiment of Inverness-shire Local Militia, sometime British Consul at Algiers, and afterwards member of Parliament for the County of Inverness, died at his seat of Beaufort Castle, in the Aird, near Inverness, in

the 80th year of his age. He was married to Jane, only sister of Sir William Fraser, Baronet, late of Roy Lodge, in the County of Essex, by whom he had five sons, all of whom predeceased himself. His eldest son, who possessed distinguished abilities, sat in the first Imperial Parliament of the United Kingdom. He was Colonel of the Fraser Fencibles for a series of years, and went on service with them to Ireland, where he fell into a consumption from fatigue, and died at Lisbon, whither he had gone for the benefit of his health, in the month of April 1803. The disconsolate widow and mother still survives to lament the loss of all her family." Under a deed of entail the Strichen family succeeded to the estates, and worthily sustain the ancient honours of the House. The eldest son of the Hon. Archibald Fraser left an illegitimate son, Archibald Thomas Frederick, who under a disposition made by his grandfather in 1812 acquired the lands of Abertarf. He died in 1884, and the lands reverted to the head of the house.

During the latter part of the year collections were made in many parishes in the Highlands for the benefit of wounded soldiers, and of the widows and orphans of the slain. By these collections considerable sums were realised.

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Mr James Suter, in his Memorabilia under date 1815, has the following paragraphs:—"Thornbush Pier built, and old harbour in part rebuilt and deepened. Expense about £3300, raised by the Town Council on loan, to be paid by new shore dues. The Thornbush Pier is accessible to vessels of 300 tons." [From paragraphs in the "Courier" of 1818 we infer that the Thornbush Pier was only begun in 1815, and not completed for a year or two afterwards.]

"A Society of Solicitors formed (1815). The members of this Society had been previously called Writers. In 1782 there were only three Writers in the town, and now [1822, when the notes were written] there are above twenty."

## No. X.

With the year 1816 a new era opens. The long peace had begun, and with it questions of domestic interest revived. In the Highlands the laws relating to distilleries assumed great importance. In the previous year the subject had been mooted, but it now became pressing. There was a moral and a financial question at stake. The people were greatly addicted to smuggling and averse to habits of steady industry; while the market for barley was so restricted that farmers connived at the practice of illicit distillation for the sake of selling their grain. As a remedy for both evils, the local authorities petitioned Parliament to legalise the erection of small distilleries, and to secure a free market in the Lowlands for the sale of Highland whisky. A considerable agitation arose on this subject, of which some particulars are given below.

In June 1816 came the announcement that Government and Parliament had sanctioned the erection of small stills in the Highlands, and county meetings were held to express satisfaction with the new law, and to take steps for supervising licences and putting down smuggling. Previous to this date licences had apparently been granted in a free and easy fashion, and there were many unlicensed houses. As the year advanced distress in the Kingdom became greater owing to the want of employment, and to the operation of the Corn Laws in keeping up the price of grain. In Inverness poverty seems for a time to have been relatively less than in other places, but its presence made itself felt. Towards the end of the year riots occurred in London.

The year is memorable for the earthquake which twisted the Inverness town spire. The shock was acute and created great consternation. It was felt over a wide area, extending from Caithness to the centre of Scotland.

*From the "Inverness Journal."*

1816.

January 5.—The New-Year opens with the following paragraph:—"We are happy in the opportunity, at the same time that we offer our

readers the compliments of the season, of congratulating them on the prospect of a general and lasting peace, with which the New-Year has been ushered in. Its immediate consequences bear hard on the husbandman, but we could scarcely regret effects resulting from a redundancy of the most necessary articles of life, were that redundancy less of an artificial nature than it is. As, however, the immense importations of foreign grain, which were made on the passing of the Corn Bill, wear away (the magnitude of which, with unusually prolific seasons, has lowered its rate to a degree quite beyond the other articles of consumption, and inconsistent with the interests of any class of society, for it is from unnaturally low prices that famine may again be apprehended), it may be expected that the produce of the country will again find its level, and being met by the falling wages and prices of a period of peace, that the farmer may again contemplate his prospects with comfort." The same number

sums up the institutions which had been started in the town and district during the past few months. These were the Athenæum, a Savings Bank, an establishment for the suppression of begging, a Horticultural Society, a Highland Society, and "a Society of True Highlanders." *Ibid.*—"Died, last month, at Blaich, near Fort-William, Sergeant Alexander Fraser, late of the 21st Regiment, in the 99th year of his age. He is supposed to have been the last survivor of those who fought under his young Chief, in the cause of the unfortunate house of Stuart in 1746."

January 12.—The collections in the High Church, the Gaelic Church, and the Chapel of Ease (East Church) for the Northern Infirmary, amounted to £127 7s 6d. The quartern loaf of fine flour, which previously sold at 11d, had been reduced to 10d, and there was a prospect that it would fall to 9½d. A proportionate reduction took place in inferior bread.

*Ibid.*—"Lord Saltoun, Colonels Macdonell and Mackinnon, and Mr Hamilton, in the name of the Scottish Highlanders, presented Louis XVIII. on the 29th ult. with a copy of Ossian in the Gaelic language."

January 19.—A full account of the above presentation, which was of quite a ceremonious character, appears in this issue. The Poems were presented from the Highland Society of London, and the deputation was introduced by the British Ambassador. Mr James Hamilton, the secretary of the Society, appeared in full Highland garb. The deputation had been also in-

structed to present a copy to Marshal Macdonald, Duke of Tarentum, but as he was absent on an important mission, it was, at the Marshal's request, delivered to his daughter, the Duchess of Massa, "who gave a grand rout on the occasion to all the beauty and fashion of Paris."

*Ibid.*—There is a long article on the subject of smuggling and distilleries. Smuggling had increased in consequence of depression in farming, and the increased difficulty of finding a market for the sale of barley. "It is a fact well known that smuggled spirits at present are cheaper, more easily obtained, and consumed in greater quantities than for many years past. There is no duty paid for almost any part of the spirits of home manufacture consumed in the Highlands of Scotland, and we need not add that the quantity is very considerable and the consequent diminution of revenue very great. Indeed, it is very generally believed that the Excise duties levied in the Highlands, including the penalties recovered from delinquents, are scarcely sufficient to defray the expense of securing and collecting them." Justices of the Peace, sensible of the hardships of the country, were disposed to inflict slight fines. It appears that the market in the Lowlands had lately been opened to the legitimate Highland distiller, but this was subject to the condition of using a still of a large capacity, and very few could be found to embark in the business. The remedy proposed was to sanction 30 or 40 gallon stills in the Highlands, giving them a free market and fair and moderate duties. "The subject is, in our opinion, of vital importance to all classes of the community in this part of the Highlands."

January 26.—The County of Banff petitioned Parliament for the re-establishment of small distilleries, and for the equalisation of duties on spirits—Scotland being then subject to a duty of 3d per gallon more than England and Ireland.

February 2.—This issue contains a long list of premiums given by the Highland Society for agricultural improvements, essays, and inventions.

February 9.—A subscription library was established at Nairn, Mr James A. Grant of Viewfield, president.

*Ibid.*—"Died, on the 25th ult., at his seat of Ravenhead, near Liverpool, Colonel Fraser of Culduthel, a gentleman whose benevolent and friendly disposition, and whose upright and independent mind, make him equally a loss to his private friends and to this county."

February 16.—On Wednesday the 7th inst., the Inverness-shire Militia marched from Forres,

where they were quartered for a time. "The Inverness-shire never were in quarters they liked better." On their leaving, a great crowd accompanied them to the Bridge of Findhorn, at which the regiment faced round and gave three cheers, "in token of their esteem and attachment for the kind friends they had left, and their good wishes for the success and prosperity of the town and its vicinity."

**Ibid.**—A decision of the Barons of the Exchequer again prohibited the southern market to Highland distilled whisky. The Inverness Farmer Society resolved to address Parliament on the subject. An Easter Ross farmer, writing in this issue, says—"Many of our brethren have been ruined by the great depression of price for agricultural produce, and almost all of us are struggling with difficulties to save our credit."

**March 8.**—G. Macpherson-Grant, Esq. of Ballindalloch and Invereshie, was on the 6th inst. unanimously elected member of Parliament for the County of Sutherland.

**March 15.**—The resolutions are published of a county meeting in Sutherland called to consider the Distillery Laws. Mr Macpherson-Grant, M.P., presided. The meeting complained of the excessive malt tax and other disadvantages. "That the provision in the Act 54 of the King, allowing the use of Stills, of a capacity not under 500 gallons, was by no means suited for the Highland District, which, though subsequently reduced by an order of the Treasury to 200 gallons, has, in such modification, and in the permission of exportation out of the Highland District, been entirely defeated by a recent judgment of the Court of Exchequer in Scotland, which has rendered nugatory the benefit intended by this Act." The meeting asked for a reduction of the malt duty by one-half; for the equalisation of duties between the Highland and Lowland districts; and for permission to work in the Highlands with stills of the capacity of 50 or 60 gallons.

**March 22.**—This issue gives the resolutions of a meeting of the County of Inverness on the subject of the Distillery Laws. Mr William Fraser-Tytler, Sheriff-Depute and Convener, was in the chair, and the resolutions were substantially the same as those adopted by the County of Sutherland, though differing somewhat in detail. A preamble to the substantive part of the resolutions declared that the changes asked for by the meeting were required "for the restoration of the moral character of the people, for the promotion of the agriculture of the county,



- and for the improvement and protection of the revenue." Meetings were held in other counties and by Farmer Societies, making urgent representations of the same character as those from Sutherland and Inverness.
- Ibid.—At a ploughing match at Spynie, in Morayshire, "a considerable number of iron ploughs appeared, and it was remarked that their work was done in the neatest manner."
- Ibid.—"There is now living in the parish of Rafford, near Forres, an old man named James Watson, now aged 99 years, and his wife, C. Cumming, also alive in her 95th year. They have lived together for the space of 66 years as man and wife. Watson fought at the memorable battle of Culloden."
- March 29.—A distiller in the neighbourhood of Inverness was ruined by the decision of the Barons of the Exchequer prohibiting the exportation of spirits to the Lowlands.
- April 5.—"During the last month 15 foxes, 5 wild cats, and 2 badgers were killed in the woods of Brahan by John Walker, gamekeeper to Lady Hood Mackenzie. All these animals were killed within a mile of the gamekeeper's lodge."
- Ibid.—Died, at Cantray, on 23th March, Sir David Davidson of Cantray, Knight.
- April 12.—"The following is, we think, a curious and important fact. In 1812 an alarm being spread that a gang of coiners and thieves were on their way from Aberdeen to Inverness, the Magistrates, by way of precaution, desired all the publicans to be brought before them, licensed and unlicensed, and 128 were collected. As all those of the latter description were liable to prosecution, it may be supposed that many of them, from being overlooked, and from the favour of the officers, did not appear." These extra places, the writer thinks, may be "moderately rated" at 32, making 160 in all—"a number which, considering the population of Inverness, must have a very pernicious effect on the morals of the people, particularly as the unlicensed (forming a very great proportion) are subject to no check whatever."
- April 26.—This number contains the report of the trial of Mr Sellar in connection with the evictions in Strathnaver. The jury returned a verdict of not guilty, and the report bears that "the highest character was established on the part of Mr Sellar for moderation, humanity, and kindness of disposition from his earliest days upwards."
- Ibid.—"Died, at Nairn, on the 20th inst., in the 88th year of her age, Miss Alexandrina Rose

of Kilravock, the last surviving daughter of Hugh Rose, Esq. of Kilravock, great-grandfather of the present Hugh Rose, Esq. of Kilravock; a lady most justly and universally esteemed and regretted by all who had the pleasure of her acquaintance."

*Ibid.*—Died, at Brora, on the 3rd, on his way home from Aberdeen, Hugh Mackay, eldest son of the late Captain John Mackay of Skerray. He was in his third session at the University of Aberdeen, and a student of exceptional promise.

May 3.—The annual meeting of Commissioners of Supply was held, Sheriff Fraser-Tytler, Con- vener, in the chair. A communication was read from Mr Charles Grant, member for the County, on the subject of the Distillery Laws as affect- ing the Highlands, "from which there is the strongest grounds for believing that the exer- tions which have been made by the Highland Counties, for procuring a fair and deliberate investigation of their case are likely to be attended with the most beneficial results." The thanks of the meeting were conveyed to the hon. member, on the motion of Mr Grant of Corrimony, seconded by Raigmore.

*Ibid.*—Died, lately, at Glencalvie, parish of Kin- cardine, Ross-shire, Alexander Campbell, alias Iverach, at the advanced age of 117 years. He was born in 1698, carried arms in 1716 under William, Lord Ross, and till his death showed the characteristic hardihood of a Highlander to an uncommon degree. In the severest weather he went with his neck and breast bare, and to the last walked perfectly erect; his dress the short coat, kilt, and plaid, and his staff gener- ally across his breast. Till the uncommon storm of snow of last winter fell, he could walk down to Gledfield and the Manse in a day, the distance being about 11 miles. He entered as a scholar last year in one of the Gaelic Society Schools in this parish, actually learn- ing the alphabet, and began spelling, when his further progress was arrested by the failure of his sight. He waited last harvest on the Right Hon. Lord Asburton at Roseball, when his lordship, with his wonted benevolence, gave him a shilling for every year of his life, and a further sum to buy a little of his favourite usquehagh, to keep his old age comfortable, in all upwards of six guineas. His lordship's donation outlived Iverach's days, and helped to put the hoary veteran decently under the turf."

May 10.—At a meeting of the Commissioners of Supply of the County of Ross, it was resolved to present a piece of plate, of not less than a

hundred guineas value, to Donald Macleod, Esq. of Geunies, "as a mark of the high sense which they entertain of the services rendered by him, in the able, impartial, and successful discharge of the duties of Convener during the long period of forty years." Mr Macleod having resigned, Mr Mackenzie, jr. of Applecross, was elected Convener.

May 31.—There are two public ceremonies at Nairn reported in this issue. On 15th April the foundation-stone was laid of a monumental pillar to the memory of Mr John Straith, late schoolmaster. The monument was raised at the expense of the Nairnshire meeting in London, Mr Isaac Ketchen being secretary and treasurer. The foundation-stone was laid "in presence of all the resident scholars in the town and parish of Nairn; Robert Falconar, Esq., Sheriff-Substitute of the County; Robert Dempster, William Robertson, and John Ore, Esquires, present Magistrates of the Burgh of Nairn, and the other heritors and chief residents of the parish." Mr Thomas Dick Lauder designed the pillar, and Mr John M. Watt, junior, Nairn, was architect. On the 23th of May there was another procession held by the resident scholars as a commemoration. Mr Isaac Ketchen spoke, and there was a public dinner, at which Mr Thomas Dick Lauder was one of the speakers.

June 14.—"In our paper of this date the Parliamentary debate which has taken place on our Distillery Laws will be found, and it will be seen that the two grand objects of our petitions have been granted, namely, a free market for our spirits and permission to erect small stills, even to forty gallons; the duty is also reduced 25 per cent., the Chancellor of the Exchequer stating that it could not be made lower without a corresponding deduction in the English duties. The superintendence of these small stills will, of course, be considerably more expensive to Government than the large ones. We have now a free market, with permission to use stills as much proportioned to small capital as could be expected; we cannot therefore complain of want of means to consume our barley, or being compelled to drink a bad spirit from a large still; and we do hope that the promises which accompanied our petitions, and under which the concessions of Government have been granted, will be fulfilled and the object of these concessions made effectual." Under the bill passed at this time the duty on spirits was reduced from 8s 4d to 6s 4d per gallon. It stands at present at 11s per gallon.

*Ibid.*—"Married, at Ardersier, on Saturday, the 1st curt., John Macandrew, Esq., solicitor in Inverness, to Catherine, daughter of James Macpherson, Esq. of Ardersier." "Married, at Inverness, on Monday, the 10th inst., P. A. Fraser, Esq. of Culduthel, to Jane Anne Catherine, only daughter of E. S. Fraser, Esq. of Reilig."

June 28.—A correspondent at Thurso writes:—"Although Government does not at present hold out any encouragement, yet emigration to America still continues to depopulate the Highlands. In the course of last summer 137 males and 79 females, in all 216 persons of all ages, were shipped at this port, partly for Lord Selkirk's property on the banks of the Red River; and on the 12th of this month the brig *Vine*, of Peterhead, sailed hence to Picton with a cargo of the same description, to the number of 82 passengers of both sexes, being all that the vessel's tonnage could admit by law. These last were engaged by a Mr Logan, a settler in Canada. We are informed, too, that another ship is expected here for the same object." While the *Vine* was at Thurso, its master, Captain Davidson, and other two persons, were drowned by their boat upsetting when crossing the bar.

July 5.—On the evening of the 1st curt. the foundation-stone of one of the piers of the Dingwall Canal was laid by Mr Mackenzie of Hilton, Provost of the Burgh. The ceremony was followed by a luncheon.

July 12.—An Inverness Tobacco Manufactory established some time previously, advertises "a considerable quantity of fine and mid twist that will bear comparison with any in the kingdom."

July 19.—Report of a meeting of the Highland Society of Scotland in Edinburgh. "Walter Scott, Esq., in an eloquent address, brought under the view of the meeting the distinguished merits of Mrs Macleod of Macleod, who, since she became connected with the Highlands and Islands, has assiduously endeavoured to promote the industry and comfort of the peasantry where her influence extended, by establishing schools, building cottages, and such other measures as were conducive to their happiness; and with a view to enabling her to become more familiar with their habits and manners, had successfully studied their language. He concluded by moving that she should be elected a member of the Society, without the form of ballot, with which regulation in those instances where ladies of such distinguished rank and merit came forward in support of the Institu-

tion, the Society was in the habit of dispensing. This motion having been seconded by Henry Mackenzie, Esq., and supported by Lord Bannatyne, was unanimously adopted, and Mrs Macleod of Macleod was elected a member accordingly."

*Ibid.*—The report of the Highland Society also bears that in 1814 an honorary premium was awarded to Mr Mackenzie of Hilton for an improvement of waste land in the Valley of Strathpeffer. The Society's highest gold medal was now awarded to Dr James Wishart, tenant of the farm of Waterloo, on the Talloch estate, for improving about 70 acres in the same valley.

*Ibid.*—The same issue reports the first anniversary meeting of the "Society of True Highlanders," held at Inverlochry on the 12th of June. Many ladies were present, and the gentlemen were "almost to a man" in the full uniform of their regiments or the Highland dress. There was a grand ball, which is described in glowing terms. "Colonel Stewart of Garth wore large, round Cairngorm buttons, richly set; others had the globular silver buttons of their ancestry, and the highly finished pistols, dirks, powder-horns, and other paraphernalia gave an air of magnificence to the whole far more brilliant than expectation had sanctioned." The hall was led off by Mrs Macdonell of Glengarry and Colonel Stewart. Glengarry himself was the chief organiser of this Society.

July 26.—The number gives an extract from a book published in Paris, "The Tour of a Frenchman" in Britain in 1810 and 1811. The writer, speaking of Scotland, says:—"Even in Scotland civilisation makes sensible progress, but there may still be seen some fine women, very well dressed, with white muslin gowns, gloves, and even a parasol, holding their shoes and their stockings in their hands, and walking bare-footed through the mire. They defend the custom as cleanly, for it is absolutely necessary to wash the feet: as healthful, for they are sure not to have wet covering for the feet; and no one can deny that it is economical."

August 2.—Died, at Nairn, on the 25th July, Major J. G. King, of the Portuguese service. He served under the Duke of Wellington during the Peninsular War, and was present in every action down to Orthes, when he was severely wounded while gallantly leading on his regiment. From the effects of these wounds he ultimately died at the early age of 25.

*Ibid.*—"At Aberdeen, on the 13th ult., in the 73rd year of his age, 52nd of his ministry, and 34th of his Episcopate, the Right Rev. John

Skinner, senior Bishop and Primus of the Episcopal Church in Scotland, a man whose eminence and superior usefulness in his station are too deeply engraven on the hearts both of the clergy and laity of that communion ever to be obliterated."

August 9.—The "Journal" advertises itself as the only newspaper published north of Aberdeen, and as circulating extensively in the Highlands, in other parts of the United Kingdom, and in the Colonies. Mr James Fraser is mentioned as editor and publisher.

Ibid.—County meetings are advertised intimating the regulations required for the establishment of small stills of not less than 40 gallons. These stills had to be sanctioned and licensed by the Magistrates. The Ross-shire County meeting adopted a series of resolutions recommending the Michaelmas Head Court to divide the county into districts, the Justices in each district to meet twice a-year for the purpose of granting licences, and that afterwards "the members of the meeting will exert themselves to the utmost of their power for the suppression of all unlicensed tippling houses." One of the resolutions is as follows:—"That the meeting are of opinion that the practice of bestowing on the officers of Excise a proportion of the fines levied on delinquents, ought to be discontinued, and some other mode of remunerating their activity adopted, because, though no doubt it proves a stimulus to those officers to bring as many offenders into Court as possible, it gives them an interest in the continuance of the illegal trade, and forms a strong inducement to their using indirect means to prevent its extinction."

Ibid.—"We understand that on Saturday the young Chief of the Frasers came, for the first time, to make some stay on his property at Beaufort Castle, on which occasion numerous bon-fires testified the congratulation of the tenantry and of the neighbouring gentlemen."

August 16.—On Tuesday, the 13th inst., about 20 minutes to 11 p.m., a violent shock of earthquake was felt at Inverness. "Some of the inhabitants who had retired to rest were suddenly tossed out of their beds, and many were terribly alarmed by the universal shaking of the houses, the rattling of the slates, and the tremendous crash of large stones which were precipitated with violence from many of the chimney tops. Happily, however, from the lateness of the hour very few persons were then in the streets, and consequently no lives were lost." The concussion lasted about 20 seconds, and in many houses bells rung for nearly a

minute. There was great consternation in the town, people rushing half-dressed into the streets, and some of them making for the country. "The atmosphere during the evening was clear and serene, and the thermometer stood at 54 degs. without variation. In the morning it appeared that the beautiful spire attached to the Jail was, at the distance of several feet from the top, completely rent and twisted several inches round, in a direction from the east towards the north-west. As most of the stones detached from the chimney tops appear to have been thrown in the same direction, it seems probable that the motion of the earthquake was from the north-west towards the south-east, because the motion of the undulation towards the south-east being communicated to the lower sooner than to the higher parts of the buildings, those parts of the latter whose cohesion was not sufficiently strong, would naturally be left behind, and projected in a north-west direction. This opinion is confirmed by a scientific gentleman well acquainted by experience with this awful phenomenon, who happened to be on the street at the time of the concussion. By accounts already received, it appears that the same shock was felt at Dingwall, Forres, and Pitmain; but that it was more violent towards the north and west than towards the south and east." The earthquake was also felt at Aberdeen, the time being given at 4 minutes to 11 o'clock, and the duration of the shock 6 seconds.

*Ibid.*—The Inverness Highland Society had a short time before come to a resolution to establish a market for sheep and wool, to be held annually at Inverness on the first Tuesday after the Fort-William market, held in June. The proposal met with general approbation. The Inverness Farmer Society, at a meeting on the 9th inst., resolved to give it their support.

*Ibid.*—There is a paragraph reporting the examination of the Ladies' School kept at Cromarty by Miss Bond. This is the lady who figures in Hugh Miller's "Schools and Schoolmasters."

August 23.—There are continued reports of the extent of the earthquake, one giving minute details from Mr Dick Lauder at Relugas. The shock was felt from Wick to Perth and Montrose. It seems to have been more violent at Inverness than any other part of Scotland. "A slight shock was felt here about 16 and another about 40 years ago: in 1755 when Lisbon was destroyed by an earthquake, Loch Ness was thrown into violent agitation, but

we do not find that this was apparent in the present instance."

*Ibid.*—"At the last Inverness-shire Farmer Society meeting, it was resolved with regard to servants hired from the town and neighbourhood, that no higher wages should be given than 6d a-day for women, whether working at turnips, hay, or any other employment, except shearing in harvest, when the highest wages should be 10d for women and 1s 6d for men." "Our fish market has of late been universally well supplied. Salmon sells from 4d to 6d per lb., and fine fresh herring at 1d per dozen."

August 25.—"The ports are definitely shut against the import of foreign corn and flour for the ensuing three months. The aggregate prices for the last three weeks, which regulate the imports, were—Wheat, 76s 5d; barley, 30s 1d; oats, 23s 3d; rye, 42s 1d; beans, 34s 7d; pease, 34s 8d. We trust that a continuation of the present most favourable weather will render us altogether independent of importation for another year."

*Ibid.*—For the first time, so far as we have observed, there are notes of sport in connection with the 12th of August. The weather had been unfavourable for shooting, "but the Marquis of Huntly's party have had excellent sport, having killed during the first week 553 brace of muirfowl, 4 brace of ptarmigan, besides snipes, plovers, and hares." The name of the moor is not given. Another note states that a party at Invereshie would have killed a thousand brace by Saturday night; that in one party of three guns, each gentleman killed from 50 to 77 brace per day. "The writer fears the annihilation of the grouse; the storm is said to have driven them from the hills, and there being therefore no preserve, the slaughter in the lower lands is the more fatal."

September 6.—The weather is reported cold, with frequent showers of hail, sharp frost at nights, and snow on the higher hills. There was fear for the crops. "Since the year 1782 there has not been a more ungenial season."

September 20.—A festival and series of games were held at Invergarry on the 14th in connection with the Society of True Highlanders. "At sunrise the standard waved from the old castle tower." This was said to have been the first time it was hoisted since the flight of Prince Charles in 1746.

September 27.—James Robertson elected Provost of Inverness.

*Ibid.*—Several persons were tried at the Circuit Court for obstructing and assaulting Excise



officers in the discharge of their duty. The persons found guilty were sentenced to terms of imprisonment. The presiding Judge again complained of the insufficient accommodation of the Court-house.

October 4.—Mr Charles Grant, senior, M.P. for the County, was elected President of the Inverness Auxiliary of the Bible Society, and being present, delivered an address.

*Ibid.*—Colonel Baillie of Leys gave £10 to the Society for Suppressing Mendicity, £5 to the Coal Fund, and £85 to the Northern Infirmary (to which on a former occasion he had given £15). It is stated that Colonel Baillie had been absent for 25 years, "during a considerable portion of which he filled a distinguished diplomatic situation with much credit to himself and much benefit to his country." He is complimented on the buildings and extensive improvements which he had in contemplation.

October 18.—"Died, on the 8th curt., at the Manse of Dornoch, in the 71st year of his age and the 39th of his ministry, the Rev. John Bethune, D.D., minister of Dornoch. As a man, a clergyman, a Christian, and a relation he was equalled by few and inferior to none. His memory will long be cherished with the warmest affection; his worth is deeply engraven on the hearts of all who had the happiness of knowing him; and his loss will be deplored not only by his sorrowing family, but by all to whom his merits and virtues were known.

October 25.—The Northern Meeting was held the previous week. "The meeting resolved that a plate of 50 guineas should be given next year out of the funds for any horse carrying 10 stone that never won a plate (Hunter's Plate excepted), to be run for on Wednesday of the Meeting, and named a special Committee for providing a proper course; to defray the expense of which £20 was voted from the funds of the Meeting."

November 1.—The annual meeting of the Trafalgar Club was held at Forres on the 29th ult., Mr Dick Lauder of Relugas in the chair. The Marquis of Huntly was unable to be present owing to the illness of a relative. "On the motion of the Rev. John Macdonell, the large and handsome china bowl, a present from Lord Huntly, had three quarts of whisky put into it, which being made into excellent punch, was emptied to the health of the Noble Donor."

November 8.—It is stated that the Society for the suppression of begging had 160 pensioners. A sum of £400 had been subscribed by members of the Society for the requirements of the year, and "£370 has already been recovered."

*Ibid.*—"Died, at Ness-side, on the 1st inst., Angus Mackintosh of Holm, Esq., a man whose loss will be felt in private life as the kind and constant friend, the indulgent master, and the poor man's counsellor and protector; in public life as one whose high and correct notions of probity furnished useful example and reproof; an upright and assiduous Magistrate, whom neither private views nor personal influence could sway from a conscientious discharge of his duty; a zealous and active supporter of every measure which he thought beneficial to the county."

November 15.—After the cold summer there had been an improvement in the weather, but the winter began with great severity, and a heavy fall of snow. "We regret to say that several lives have been lost; two days ago the bodies of two women and a child were found buried in the snow, about two hundred yards from the great road near Dalmagarry; the bodies of two men have been found in the hills of Aberarder, and two more are missing. A post-boy of Bennet's, coming from the South, was obliged to leave his chaise on the road, and would have been lost but for the lights shown from the windows of Moyhall, which he reached nearly in a frozen state."—Bread was becoming more scarce and dear every day.

November 22.—The arrival is chronicled of a brig from Tburso at Halifax, Nova Scotia, with 139 passengers, chiefly farmers and mechanics. "About the first week in September 368 settlers or emigrants arrived at Quebec from Great Britain, and six other vessels were then reported going up the river St Lawrence with passengers." The economic condition of America was represented as very unfavourable, and emigrants were warned against going out.

*Ibid.*—"The average of the last six weeks having definitely been struck, the importation of wheat, barley, oats, and rye is permitted; the scarcity on the Continent is, however, so great that the importation will, we apprehend, be limited. The public is indebted to some active individuals for the quantity of grain and meal which has already been imported here—that the price rises is not owing to them but to the state of the times. Compared with our neighbours, we certainly have no cause for complaint. Whilst the population in other places are starving for want of employment, we have had abundance of work." It is stated, however, in another paragraph that there is a quantity of corn still unharvested.

December 13.—Riots in London due to distress and the growth of discontent are reported, but

with expressions of strong disapproval. "The leaders affect to have held a correspondence with various other quarters, and dispositions to riot have manifested themselves at Dundee and other places, but quietness is again restored; and we trust the instigators of these outrages will not escape the punishment they merit." Movements to provide employment for the neighbouring poor are reported from Edinburgh and Aberdeen. In the North proposals are on foot for erecting small distilleries.

December 20.—Mr John Ross, Coram Street, London, sent a hundred guineas for the benefit of the poor of Tain, especially for families of the name of Ross. This was the fourth time he had contributed to the relief of the poor in Tain.

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The following further items appear in Mr James Suter's Memorabilia under date 1816:—"Several private individuals commenced Sabbath Schools for poor children at their own expense. A fund of £118 a-year, which had been bequeathed to the Town Council by Mr Anderson, of Glasgow, formerly a merchant in the town, for relief of poor householders, was this year first distributed."

## No. XI.

In the year 1817 public distress and public discontent both began to assume serious proportions. The discontent was largely due to distress; and several paragraphs in the subjoined notes show how severely the country was suffering. In the chief towns Committees were organised to provide for the unemployed. In Inverness a Soup Kitchen was opened for the first time. Throughout the Highlands the leading proprietors purchased or pledged their credit for large quantities of meal and seed. One ingenious landlord imported 3000 lbs. of rice and 200 cwts. of treacle. Political discontent had not yet appeared in the North of Scotland, but elsewhere it was showing itself in various outbreaks, the most alarming being directed against the Prince Regent. The Government were timid, reactionary, and incompetent to deal with the state of affairs which had come into existence after the peace of 1815.

The Criminal Code was at this date still harsh. At the Inverness Spring Circuit Court of 1817, a woman was sentenced to be executed for housebreaking, or rather for merely assisting the men who committed the crime, and who had escaped. The sentence was not carried into effect: the woman was twice respited, and her punishment ultimately commuted to two years' imprisonment. In another case the barbarous punishment of public flogging was inflicted by the local authorities on a female delinquent. This is generally said to have been the last instance of the kind in the United Kingdom, but a correspondent of the "Journal" drew attention to the fact that a similar punishment was inflicted in Perth while the bill abolishing it was actually passing through Parliament.

The first Sheep and Wool Market at Inverness was held in 1817. The date was the third Tuesday in June, and the market was held only for one day.

In 1817 a movement sprang up in Scotland in favour of burgh reform. At this time Town Councils elected themselves, and managed the finance of their burghs without control or

supervision. A curious incident stimulated the movement for redress. "In 1817," says Mr Spencer Walpole in his History, "the Magistrates of Montrose actually presumed to elect themselves by ballot. It was the first occasion on which secret voting had ever been applied to any municipal election. The authorities, shocked at the recklessness of a municipality which was capable of committing so palpable an illegality, decided on quashing the election, and on issuing a warrant altering what was called in Scotland the "set" or constitution of the burgh. Instead of the old Councillors electing the new, the warrant authorised the burgesses to elect their own Magistrates." This was the "poll" election which other burghs likewise desired to exercise; or if they could not obtain quite so much, they were anxious to confine the action of their Magistrates and Town Councils within the limits of each local constitution, and to look into the disposition of the funds. The bankruptcy of Aberdeen excited widespread consternation. The general movement had effect on local authorities, and specific results in several instances; but municipal reform in the broad sense was not secured until 1833. Inverness, as will by-and-by appear, had its local machinery upset for a time by the Court of Session.

In December 1817 the "Courier" was established. We have followed the file of the "Journal," however, to the end of the year, and reserve an account of the establishment of the "Courier" until our next instalment.

*From the "Inverness Journal."*

1817.

January 3.—A soup kitchen established for the first time in Inverness. Seven hundred necessitous persons shared in a distribution of coal.

Ibid.—"Died, at Ardersier, in this vicinity, within these few days, a gander, well known to have been full grown when the foundation of Fort-George was laid in the year 1748. His helpmate died only two years ago."

January 17.—"On the 5th inst., at Mountgerald, Ross-shire, John Munro, labourer, at the very advanced age of 108 years. He enjoyed a sound constitution until a short time before his death; his sight and other organs were unimpaired; he could see from his own house a ship or boat

at the entrance of Cromarty Firth a distance of 20 miles."

February 7.—Account of a riotous attack on the Prince Regent and his escort as they were returning from the opening of Parliament. An agitation for Parliamentary Reform begins to assume consequence. The more violent reformers were frequently addressed by "Orator Hunt," but meetings of a temperate character were also held.

February 14.—"In these distempered times of riot and discontent, it is gratifying to see the sense of the nation so warmly and promptly manifested with regard to the most atrocious and treasonable attack on the Prince Regent. Addresses pour in from every quarter, and we are glad to see our county join in so proper and seasonable a display of loyalty and attachment to the son and representative of our Sovereign. It is deeply to be regretted that some of the principal actors in the scene were not seized; a salutary example at the present moment could not fail to be beneficial to the advocates of universal suffrage and annual Parliaments; in other words, of anarchy, confusion, and revolution."

February 28.—It is announced that "as the Highland road between Inverness and Perth is now passable," the Caledonian Coach will begin running on the 3rd of March, twice a-week each way.

Ibid.—The Corporation of the City of Aberdeen was at this time found to be bankrupt. The Burgesses of Guild met and adopted a resolution declaring that in their opinion this was "the natural result of the Town Council being self-elected, and the government of it having become, as it were, the inheritance of a few individuals, forming a secret junto, considering themselves not amenable to their fellow-citizens for misrule." The "Journal" made the occurrence a text for criticism of the administration of the Town Council of Inverness.

Ibid.—"Died, suddenly, on the 14th curt., at her house in Edinburgh, the Hon. Euphemia Stewart, widow of William Stewart, Esq., late of Castle Stewart, and sister of Kenneth, late Earl of Seaforth."

March 7.—"In our Journal of the 28th June last it will appear that the Inverness Highland Society resolved on the establishment of a sheep and wool market in our town as the most central station in the Highlands. In pursuance of this resolution, a meeting was, by advertisement, convened at Bennet's Hotel on the 27th last, and was very numerous and most respect-

ably attended. It appeared that from every quarter of the country, and by all the Southern dealers, the most earnest desire was manifested for the establishment of the proposed market at Inverness. A letter was produced from the Secretary of the Sutherland and Caithness Association indicating their cordial support and anxious desire to co-operate, by every means, towards the prosperity of the market; and assurances of approbation were given from the following houses and persons interested in the wool trade; so that the first market may be expected to have a much greater attendance than any ever heretofore held in the Highlands." A list of those approving follows, and an advertisement fixes the date of the market as the third Tuesday of June. Mr Peter Anderson, solicitor, was secretary to the meeting.

March 14.—This issue contains a paragraph condemning the flogging of a woman named Grant through the streets of Inverness. The punishment was inflicted three times within a fortnight. The writer of the paragraph admits that example was necessary, and was made in this case with the best intention; but he urges rightly that the public flagellation of a woman is repugnant to feelings of respect and delicacy. "On the unfortunate object in question, a young and handsome woman, the hardened indifference and audacity with which she bore and ridiculed the punishment, showed that it failed of effect—so much, indeed, that notwithstanding this third flagellation, she returned from her 'banishment' the same evening." A few months afterwards, mainly as the result of this case, an Act was passed abolishing the power to whip women publicly; and some years later the sex was exempted from the private infliction of such punishment. In certain States of the American Republic public flagellation, on both sexes, is still occasionally administered.

Ibid.—A correspondent sends a letter stating that a monument had been erected to the memory of Captain Thomas Humberstone Mackenzie, of the 78th Regiment, and of Captain Grant, Lieut. Anderson, and non-commissioned officers and privates of the same regiment who fell at the storming of Ahmednuggur in India on 8th August 1803. "The monument stands on the spot where Captain Humberstone Mackenzie fell, and consists of a massy slab of the most durable stone, securely built in the wall of the town, and arched overhead, with a suitable inscription, surmounted by the Mackenzie crest, a stag's head and antlers, with the words 'Cabar Feidh,' and the regimental motto, 'Cuidich an

Righ.' It was erected in 1814 by the Hon. Lady Hood Mackenzie of Seaforth, who marked out the site, drew the design and inscription, and gave orders for erecting the work at her own expense. It is worthy of remark that her ladyship (whose father, the late Lord Seaforth, had raised the 78th Regiment) in travelling across the Peninsula from Bombay in 1813, should happen to pass through the very place where that regiment had so admirably distinguished itself; and she was struck with the desire of perpetuating, by some lasting memorial, the gallantry of her young relative, Captain H. Mackenzie, an officer of high promise, and of his countrymen who fell in that memorable assault." The attack, it seems, was unwittingly made at the most impracticable part of the wall, and officers and men fell in a gallant but futile attempt to carry the position. "Captain Mackenzie had gained the summit; he found there no footing, but his gallant spirit would not suffer him to think of retreat; calling to his men to follow him, he instantly leaped into the town amongst the enemy, but the height was so great that his knees on coming to the ground bent under him, and before he could recover himself he was speared in many places. The few men who had gained the top of the wall did not hesitate for a moment in resolving to share his fate; and thus was lost in very early youth an officer of the highest hopes, whose mild and amiable manners were joined to a high and ardent courage, which too soon deprived his country of one whom length of life would have made a shining ornament to his profession. Captain Grant was also an officer of great promise; he had volunteered on that occasion, and on gaining the top of the wall, called out that there was no footing; but forgetful in his own person of the caution which he taught his companions, he received a shot which almost instantly proved fatal; he was a son of Mrs Grant, Forres. The attack, of course, failed, and the strength of the place and garrison having been ascertained, the siege was subsequently carried out in due form. Captain Mackenzie was also paymaster of the regiment." The above account was furnished to the "Journal" by a gentleman who was personally and intimately connected with the two officers. The official account by Lieut.-Colonel Adams, published by Major Davidson in his History of the 78th, says that Captain Mackenzie and Captain Grant were both shot at the top of their respective ladders. Captain Grant at the time was under arrest for fighting a duel, and volunteered for the at-



tack. His father had been Provost of Forres, and he had several brothers who attained distinction. One of them, if we mistake not, Lieut.-Colonel Colquhoun Grant, was an Intelligence Officer of great service to Wellington in the Peninsular War.\*

Ibid.—The poor of the town and parish of Elgin are represented as suffering severely from the distress of the times. A sum of £300 had been subscribed and a Committee appointed to distribute the fund until the month of September, when it was hoped that harvest labour and the produce of a new crop would enable the people to provide for themselves.

April 4.—The Highland Society of London met on the previous Friday to celebrate the anniversary of the battle of Alexandria, that being also the day of the incorporation of the Society. The Duke of York was in the chair, and the company included the Duke of Argyll, the Duke of Atholl, the Marquis of Huntly, Glengarry, Sir Aeneas Mackintosh, and many other Highland gentlemen. The Duke of York, in name of the Society, presented to the 42nd Regiment a piece of plate in recognition of its distinguished services, the Marquis of Huntly, as Commander of the regiment, receiving the gift. The plate consisted of a richly chased silver tripod, the legs ornamented with thistle foliage, and the plinth bearing a medallion portrait of Sir Ralph Abercromby.

Ibid.—Died, at Collumpton, Devon, on the 22nd ult., on his way from Sidmouth to Clifton, William Chisholm of Chisholm, Esq.

April 11.—The Marquis of Huntly procured from Government six hundred bolls of meal, to be sent for the relief of people in the Highlands, with a promise that more was to follow.

April 25.—A citizen writes complaining that half-a-crown had to be paid by a marriage party of townspeople crossing one of the bridges. Tolls at that time existed, but this was considered an exorbitant exaction.

May 2.—“Mr Alexr. Dingwall, plumber in Greenock, has lately paid into the hands of the Kirk treasurer of Dingwall, a legacy of £50 sterling, bequeathed by his deceased brother, Mr Donald Dingwall, late of Demerary, for the behoof of the poor of that parish, where he drew his first breath, and where he at last ended his days.”

Ibid.—A paragraph gives an account of what Highland proprietors have done in the way of lowering rents, and importing meal and seed oats for the benefit of their poorer tenantry.

\* See Note A—The Grants of Forres.

Mr Macpherson-Grant of Ballindalloch, for instance, had secured 800 bolls of meal in Banffshire and 500 bolls from Berwick for the supply of his estate. Lord Reay had pledged his credit to the Government to obtain a supply of 1800 bolls of meal; and the Marquis of Stafford had sent for the supply of his Sutherland tenantry 5400 bolls of meal and nearly 500 bolls of potatoes for seed, at an expense of at least £7000, besides purchasing black cattle from the tenants, and spending large sums for the employment of the distressed on his English estates. Other Highland proprietors who could not do as much, had lowered their rents from 15 to 20 per cent., and were giving guarantees to the Government for the supply of oats.

**Ibid.**—A woman named Barbara Mackay, from Caithness, was tried at the Circuit Court for being one of several concerned in breaking into and robbing a shop at Isauld. She was traced by means of a five-franc piece, which was part of the spoil, and which she endeavoured to pass. The woman confessed that she had kept watch while others carried out the robbery, and that she had received silver and copper. The jury returned a verdict of guilty, and the woman was sentenced to be executed at Inverness on the 13th of June. She was subsequently respited and the sentence was commuted.

**Ibid.**—A citizen of Nairn, formerly Chief Magistrate, was convicted of assaulting a lawyer at Elgin to the effusion of blood and danger of life, and was sentenced to six months' imprisonment in the Tolbooth of Elgin. The Court would not consent to send the prisoner to be confined at Nairn on account of the "notorious insufficiency" of the jail there, and they threatened to take strong measures unless the jail was made secure.—At the same Court, two men were sentenced to six months' imprisonment for deforcing Excise officers; a man was sentenced to 14 years' transportation for sheep-stealing; and a woman for numerous acts of theft was sentenced to seven years' transportation. In the two latter cases, the Advocate-Depute restricted the libel to "an arbitrary punishment," otherwise the sentences might have been capital. The restriction to "arbitrary punishment" frequently occurs in the report of Circuit cases. One wonders why it was not adopted in the case of the woman convicted of housebreaking.

**May 9.**—The Commissioners of Supply voted £50 to the fund for the employment of the labouring poor of Inverness, and authorised the payment of another £50 if required.

**Ibid.**—It is announced that the Militia regiments are not to be called out this year for training.

May 16.—Lady Hood Mackenzie of Seaforth pledged her credit to Government for 4000 bolls of oats and 50 tons of potatoes, to be landed at Stornoway and distributed among the people.

May 23.—A list of subscriptions is published towards the issue of a Dictionary of the Gaelic language, under the patronage of the Highland Society of Scotland. The total amount of subscriptions is nearly £1900. The Society itself gave £725; the Highland Society of London, £105; and Sir John Macgregor Murray, for certain friends in India and himself, £250.

Ibid.—The Chisholm's funeral, which took place on Friday (16th), was conducted with a degree of splendour which rivalled the usage of ancient times in the last tribute of homage and respect to the remains of deceased chiefs. Invitations were very general throughout this and the neighbouring counties, and near 240 guests sat down to a sumptuous entertainment provided by Mr Cant at Beaully. The commonalty, of whom a very large assemblage were in attendance, had not been forgotten; eight bolls of oatmeal baked into bread, ample quantities of cheese, and 20 ankers of whisky were distributed among them; not satisfied, however, with this liberal supply, they made free with Mr Cant's stores of wines and other liquors, and we regret to understand that a man and two women died of the effects of intoxication. Many battles with sticks and fists and stones were fought, and many cracked crowns were given and received, but beyond the foregoing melancholy instances, we believe no further fatal effects ensued: various depredations, however, were committed, and amongst others, some of the riders, we understand, discovered next morning that they had come home without their saddle-flaps, the well-dressed leather of which, it had been discovered, would make superior brogue soles." The interment took place in Beaully Priory.

May 30.—"On Wednesday, the 21st May, at Lady Seaforth's, Charlotte Square, James Alexander Stewart, Esq. of Glasserton, to the Hon. Lady H. Mackenzie of Seaforth." The marriage was celebrated with rejoicings on the Seaforth estates.

Ibid.—The Horticultural Society of London awarded their medal to Sir George S. Mackenzie for his improvement of forcing houses, by giving glass the form of a portion of a sphere.

Ibid.—"The motion for a Committee to inquire into the state of the representation of the people, made by Sir Francis Burdett, and rejected by a majority of 188, was the same made by Mr Pitt in 1782, and lost only by a majority of

20. It was again brought forward in 1812 by Mr Brand, and rejected by a majority of 127, the minority counting 88. Mr Tierney ascribed the falling-off to the intolerance of its advocates, who thought Reform might be carried without the aid of the superior orders of society."

June 13.—The Northern Missionary Society held its annual meeting at Inverness, when the Rev. C. Matheson, of Kilmuir, and the Rev. J. Macdonald, of Urquhart, preached. A collection amounted to £72 13s 6d. The Society resolved to send £100 to the Edinburgh Missionary Society for the support of Gaelic schools in the Highlands, and £50 to the Hibernian Society, engaged in carrying on education in Ireland.—An auxiliary to the Edinburgh Bible Society was formed in Forres.

Ibid.—“We have heard with pleasure that Mr Grant of Elchieh has shipped from London to Findhorn 3000 lbs. of rice and 200 cwts. of treacle for the supply of the poor on his estates in the counties of Banff and Elgin.”

June 20.—The first Sheep and Wool Market was held at Inverness on the third Tuesday of June. The Committee arranged that the market should last but twenty-four hours, as “it has generally been remarked that when markets are of many days continuance, almost all the business is done on the last.” An ordinary, purveyed by Mr Bennet, was held in the Northern Meeting Rooms. Mr Grant of Corrimony, “who was among the first of our proprietors to introduce the system of sheep farming,” presided. Among the largest purchasers were Mr Lockwood, from Huddersfield, and Mr Mackinnon of Corrychatachan. It is noted that the Fort-William Market had been well attended, and the prices were considerably better than last year, viz., 18s; at the Inverness Market they had increased to 19s 6d, and the Cheviot to 23s per stone; one or two parcels were stated to have been sold at 24s. “The number of gentlemen interested in sheep farming who attended from the Northern Counties was very considerable. Our flocks are so rapidly on the increase that we understand that there is in Sutherlandshire alone not less than 100,000 Cheviot.” The Northern Association of Gentlemen Farmers and Breeders of Sheep continued to act on a resolution which they had previously adopted to give liberal premiums for the destruction of foxes, eagles, “and other animals,” which were destructive to the growing numbers of their sheep and lambs.

Ibid.—The members of the Nairnshire Meeting in London placed £53 at the disposal of the Committee for the relief of the poor in Nairn,

Ibid.—“Died, on the 8th inst., the Rev. Alexander Macadam, minister of Nigg, Ross-shire, in the 69th year of his age.” A cordial tribute is paid to Mr Macadam’s character, learning, and impressive power as a preacher.

June 27.—On the previous Monday two smart shocks of earthquake were felt in Inverness. They were also felt, and rather more severely, in Urquhart and Dores. In some houses the bells were put in motion. A slight shock was said to have been experienced a week or two before, but the Editor himself had not observed it.

Ibid.—A long report is given of a gala day held by the Society of True Highlanders at Inverlochry. The Society was making a collection of tartans, and members paid special attention to the completeness and correctness of their Highland dress.

Ibid.—A stone coffin with human skeleton was found in the neighbourhood of Dingwall. A copper [bronze] dagger was found buried in the skull, and an earthen jar beside the skeleton.

July 4.—The number contains verses written on visiting the monument erected near Fort-William to the memory of Colonel Cameron, of the 92nd Highlanders, who fell at Quatre Bras. “The Monument stands northward of the Fort, a simple and plain, but at the same time an elegant and lofty column. The foundation of it was laid on the 7th April last with Masonic honours, by Mr Patrick Henderson, Right Worshipful Master of the Fort-William Lodge, accompanied by the brethren, and the ceremony was concluded with a most suitable and appropriate prayer by the Rev. Duncan Macintyre, minister of the parish of Kilmallie and Chaplain of the Lodge, in presence of a vast concourse of people of all ranks, who on this occasion testified a cordial interest highly honourable to the memory of the deceased.” The following are two stanzas from the visitor’s eulogium:—

“Now, Cameron, rest! while Waterloo  
Enrols thee in its annals gory,  
It weeps thy loss with sorrow true,  
And bids Fame note thy bed of glory.

“Now, Cameron, rest! Yon column high  
May tell thy tale in accents holdier,  
But many a heart thy name shall sigh,  
Till like thine own they, too, shall moulder.”

July 11.—“The Strathpeffer Wells have a much gayer and more numerous attendance this season than ever they had before.” The hope is expressed that facilities may be given for feuing.

July 25.—“In consequence of contributions from the Second and Strathnairn districts, one of which has given £50 and the other £40, a very considerable improvement is making in the entrance to the town by Castle Street, about a third of the acclivity of which from the pavement will be taken away. The principal advantage to these districts will arise from the greater facility with which lime and manure can be conveyed to them, but the convenience to the town will be great.” The work seems to have been carried out under the direction of a Committee, formed for the relief of the unemployed. Incidentally we learn that cattle markets were held somewhere near the top of Castle Street.

Ibid.—The Excise had a conflict at the wood of Spittal, in Ross-shire, with a party which was endeavouring to convey smuggled salt from the West Coast to the Inverness markets. The officers captured 20 horses, with a bag of salt each. In the struggle one of the smuggling party was severely wounded, and one of the horses killed.

August 1.—“The circulating medium was so scarce that there was little business of any description transacted at the market held here last week.”

Ibid.—“The stock farmers in the Counties of Sutherland and Caithness having now brought their flocks to that extent and perfection that they annually export to the English market better than fourteen thousand Cheviot sheep, and fifteen thousand stones of Cheviot wool, they think it of importance to establish an annual meeting for the purpose of competition in stock, of rewarding the best shepherds, and for establishing a fair for the sale of tups and choice ewe stock.” The meeting was fixed for the 20th of August, at the Kyle of Sutherland, being the week of the annual cattle market there, and was duly held on that date.

August 8.—Died, on the 23rd ult., the Rev. Thomas Bain, Rector of the Academy of Fortrose.

Ibid.—“At Knockbain, parish of Kirkhill, on the 3rd inst., John Fraser, aged 102 years. He fought under the banner of the Chief of the Clan at Culloden, and on many other occasions; he has been always a careful, sober man; he could, till within the last two years, dance a Highland reel with as much spirit as a man of thirty years of age, had a very extensive memory, and would rehearse many anecdotes regarding his Chief's exploits.”

August 22.—Mr Gilchrist, marble and stone cutter, “a craft hitherto unknown in this quarter,” began business in Inverness. He was the first to introduce his trade to Aberdeen, about thirty years before, and still maintained a large establishment there.

September 12.—Six feet of water were admitted into the Caledonian Canal from Loch-Ness, to facilitate the conveyance of materials from Clachnaharry for building the locks at the west end. “On Tuesday a sloop, with 300 barrels of coal, was dragged by a pair of horses from Clachnaharry to Loch-Ness.”

Ibid.—“Died, at Dornoch, on the 23rd ult., at the advanced age of 96 years, John Barclay, Esq., Dean of Guild. He was on the Magistracy of that ancient burgh for the last 47 years. The strictest attention to the interest of the community in the discharge of the duties of his office, the most inflexible integrity in every branch of business, and the uniformity of his general character gained him the love and esteem of his friends and fellow-citizens.”

September 19.—“The Marquis of Huntly’s party has shot this season upwards of 1400 brace of grouse; and, notwithstanding the very wet weather, the Marquis of Tavistock shot in three days 40, 45, and 51 brace.”

Ibid.—“The True Highlanders Fete was this year preceded by the revival of the Ancient Caledonian Hunt, which lasted for three successive days, and, including the Committee meeting, occupied the whole week. This noble recreation produced less venison than was anticipated, though quite as many shots were fired, ball practice being less sure with most Highlanders than it was with their ancestors; yet some of the roe deer fell in capital style at the height of their speed.” The writer of the paragraph (a correspondent) glorifies Glengarry. “Such was the enthusiastic feeling abroad,” that a gentleman named Macintyre took the silver dirk from his own side and presented it to the young heir of Glengarry; and when the boy refused it, the gentleman sent it to Glengarry, begging him to accept it on behalf of his son, “as the Macintyres claimed the Chief of the Macdonells as the Chief of their blood likewise and the author of their race.” All which and much more of a similar kind is freely punctuated with italics. The frequent communications about this Society seem either to have been written by Glengarry himself, or to have been sent by some one in his immediate circle.

Ibid.—“Here, on the 9th inst. [died] Jean Robert-

son. This extraordinary character usually employed herself in gathering dulse and shell-fish, with which she occupied her station in the market, until within a few days of her death. She would occasionally take a trip to the country to retail tea, and was not ashamed to beg at times. After her death, upwards of £60 in bank bills and £3 in silver were found in her apartment, which she had completely filled with clothes, provisions, and fuel, piled up to the roof, leaving only about four feet round the fire-place of vacant space; yet the poor wretch appeared in the same tattered garb upwards of 20 years, and is supposed to have shortened the period of her existence by abstaining from the common necessaries of life."

Ibid.—An Auxiliary of the Edinburgh Society for the Education of Deaf and Dumb Children was established at Inverness.

September 26.—James Robertson re-elected Provost of Inverness.

October 3.—"On Saturday last a sloop and a barge, laden with coals, went through the Caledonian Canal to Fort-Augustus, having lain for some hours below the Muirtown draw-bridge. The inhabitants of Inverness were apprised of the circumstance, and the novelty soon attracted a vast concourse of all ranks and ages; the banks were literally lined with spectators on this occasion."

Ibid.—James Fowler of Grange and Wellfield elected Provost of Fortrose; William Murray, banker, elected Provost of Tain.

Ibid.—Barbara MacKay, prisoner in the Tolbooth of Inverness, under a respite during pleasure, had her sentence commuted into two years' imprisonment, commencing with the date of her conviction.

October 10.—"At last the monster Self-election has received a wound; the Royal Warrant is issued for a poll election of Magistrates at Montrose." The "Journal" speaks strongly in favour of the necessity for "emancipation" in Inverness. Its columns in this and other issues are full of criticisms of local doings.

October 24.—Among those present at the Northern Meeting were the Marquis and Marchioness of Huntly, Lord and Lady Saltoun, the Hon. Mrs Stewart Mackenzie of Seaforth and Mr Stewart Mackenzie; Colonel Macdonell of Glengarry and Mrs Macdonell. Glengarry was in the complete highland garb, belted plaid, broadsword, pistols, dirk, &c. Horse races were held at Fort-George.

October 31.—The Guild-brethren of Inverness



met and appointed a Committee to wait on the Provost, and present a petition for the recovery of their rights. It is stated that the Provost "received the deputation with his wonted politeness, and stated that he would lay the petition before the Town Council." In the same issue there is an advertisement of "a letter addressed to the Guild-brethren of Inverness on the subject of Burgh Reform, by Niel McNess." To this was annexed a form of petition.

*Ibid.*—A movement for reform was also on foot at Forres, and a protest had been lodged against the recent election of Magistrates and Councillors there. The burgesses and Guild-brethren were denied admission to the Court-house to make their protest at the Michaelmas Head Court, but they took their stand in the High Street, and read their protest at the door. A Committee was appointed to take measures to obtain redress. It is stated by the Forres correspondent that "besides the demon of self-election which is so justly complained of, it is not held requisite by the present system here to have even the majority of Councillors resident within the burgh; and at last election the three bailies, Dean of Guild, Treasurer, and one councillor were all that the good town was considered capable of furnishing." The Protest bore that—"The Person elected as Provost, and a majority at least of those elected as councillors, are neither merchants, traffickers, nor inhabitants within the said burgh, nor do in any way come within the description of persons eligible to be elected as Provost or Councillors by the Acts of Parliament," &c. Complaint is made that the Provost was, at least at the time of his election, Provost of the burghs of Cullen and Elgin, "offices the conjunction of which in one individual is most unconstitutional and illegal, and to all interests and purposes disqualified him from being elected as Provost of our said burgh, even if otherwise eligible." The Forres burgesses had undoubtedly reason to protest.

November 7.—At a Committee meeting of the Bible Society, the Treasurer was instructed to remit £100 to the British and Foreign Bible Society, being nearly the whole amount of the funds in their hands. An application for 20 Bibles to poor children attending Raining's School was sustained.

*Ibid.*—On the 21st inst., the Trafalgar Club dined at Maclean's Inn at Forres to celebrate the anniversary of the battle. Thomas Dick Lauder of Reugas was in the chair, supported by the

Marquis of Huntly and the Rev. John Macdonell. The following was one of the toasts:—"The Prison of St Helena, and may the turnkeys be always on the alert." On the motion of the Chairman, the name was changed from "Club" to "Trafalgar Meeting," and the Marquis of Huntly was elected Patron.

*Ibid.*—Died, at Belfast, on the 18th October, Sergeant Alexander Cameron, pipe-major of the 92nd or Gordon Highlanders. "His merits as a performer on the Highland bagpipe were generally acknowledged, but they could only be duly appreciated by those who felt the inspiring effects of his animating strains on the toilsome march or amid the thunder of battle. He served in the Peninsula during the whole of the late war, and by his zeal attracted the notice of several officers of high rank. Lieut.-General Sir William Erskine, in a letter to a friend after the affair of Rio del Molinas, says—"The first intimation the enemy had of our approach was the piper of the 92nd playing "Hey Johnny Cope are ye waukin' yet?" To this favourite air from Cameron's pipe the streets of Brussels re-echoed on the night of the 15th June, when the regiment assembled to march out to the field of Waterloo. How many a brave fellow heard it then for the last time! Once, and once only, was this brave soldier missed in his accustomed place in the front of the battle, and the occasion strongly marks the powerful influence which the love of fame had upon his mind. In a London newspaper a very flattering eulogium had appeared on the conduct of a piper of another regiment. Our gallant musician, anxious that no one should surpass him in zeal or intrepidity, felt hurt that he should not also have gained this flattering distinction, and declared that "if his name did not appear in the newspapers he would no more play on the battlefield." Accordingly, in the next affair with the enemy, Cameron's pipe [at first] was mute! Some insinuation against the piper reached his ear. The bare idea of his conduct being misunderstood was torture to poor Cameron, and overcame at once the sullen resolution he had formed of remaining silent in the rear. He rushed forward, and not content with gaining his place at the head of the regiment, advanced with a party of skirmishers, and placing himself on a height, in full view of the enemy, continued to animate the party by playing favourite national airs. For the last two years his health sensibly declined. He was afflicted with an asthma which

the blowing of the bagpipe tended to aggravate. Notwithstanding, he could not be induced to resign his favourite employment, but continued till very lately to play 'The Gathering' for the daily assembly of the regiment. His remains were attended to the grave by several officers, all the non-commissioned officers, and the grenadier company to which he belonged."

November 14.—The death of the Princess Charlotte, which plunged the whole nation into mourning, is recorded in this issue.

Ibid.—An advertisement announces that on the 4th December a new weekly paper, entitled "The Inverness Courier," will appear. All orders are to be addressed to the publisher, W. Ettles, bookseller, Inverness; Mr Andrew Sievwright, editor; or Messrs Newton & Co., news agents, London.

Ibid.—The Nairnshire Harvest Home Meeting was held in Richardson's Inn, Nairn, on the 31st ult., attended by the County gentry. "The dancing (of which a variety was exhibited from the French Quadrille to the old Scottish Bumpkin) was kept up with great spirit to an early hour." Colonel Rose of Kilravock presided at the supper.

Ibid.—"Dr Donald Macaskill, of the Island of Eigg, and the Rev. Mr Fraser, minister of the Small Isles, were unfortunately drowned off Eigg on the 24th ult. They were proceeding from Arisaig to Eigg in a boat, when, by the starting of a plank, the boat instantly sank, and they, with the two boatmen, perished." Dr Macaskill left a widow and ten children. A subsequent paragraph states that the boatmen were rescued.

November 21.—It is stated that an Inverness Town Councillor, Mr James Lyon, had declared himself in favour of the abolition of self-election, and had written a letter on the subject to the Provost and another to the Town Council. No answer having been returned to the petition of the Guild-brethren, they had withdrawn it, and now claimed the entire renovation of the Burgh set and a poll election; "and we understand that under the circumstances of some members of the Magistracy being considered illegally appointed, the object is to disfranchise the Burgh." The Lord Advocate, Mr Cranstoun, and Mr Jeffrey had been employed on behalf of the burghesses.

Ibid.—"Some oak trees were lately discovered in deepening the channel of the Caledonian Canal through Loch-Dochfour. These were in seven feet of water and buried under a depth of ten feet of gravel. After injuring the dredging machine, with a power of 30 tons, another of

50 was applied, which succeeded in dragging to the surface three trees of very large size. One of them is of a magnitude altogether beyond the ordinary growth of this country in the present day: it is in circumference  $20\frac{1}{2}$  feet at the insertion of the limbs, 3 in number, and 14 feet 2 inches at the root end. One of the limbs is 8 feet 11 inches in circumference, and the three trees measure 198 solid feet; the wood appears to be perfectly fresh and sound."

*Ibid.*—The Nairn Friendly Society subscribed £20 towards the erection of a pier at Nairn.

November 28.—This issue contains the text of the petition submitted by the Guild-brethren of Inverness to the Town Council, claiming the right to elect their own Dean of Guild, and to manage and dispose of their own funds. By this time the petition had been considered by the Town Council, and Provost Robertson sent the following reply to one of the petitioners:—  
"Agreeable to my promise, I laid the petition of yourself and other members of the Guildry before the Town Council yesterday; and I have to intimate to you, for the information of the gentlemen interested, that the Council refuse your desire."

*Ibid.*—Died, on 1st May, at Travancore, India, in the 58th year of his age, Captain Thomas Arthur, of the Engineer Corps, Madras Establishment, son of the Rev. Mr Arthur, Resolis, Ross-shire. Captain Arthur began his military career under General Harris in the campaign of 1799, and was one of the party which that year stormed Seringapatam. He remained in India till his death, and was frequently mentioned in military orders.

December 5.—The Guild-brethren of Inverness resolved to raise a subscription to enable them to take legal action for the vindication of their claims. A sum of £430 was speedily subscribed. In Wick, Dingwall, and Elgin, movements had begun on behalf of burgh reform.

*Ibid.*—Died lately, in the Scots College, Paris, deservedly lamented, Rev. John Farquharson, superior. He was long Principal or Head of the Scots College at Douay, in Flanders, which he was forced to abandon at the period of the Revolution, and went to Glasgow, where he remained many years, officiating as Catholic clergyman, and was much esteemed for his modesty and humility, and as an honest man."

*Ibid.*—"On the 13th of June last, at Kakundy, on the Rio Munez, in Upper Guinea, on his return from the interior of Africa, Captain Thomas Campbell, of the Royal Staff Corps, then commanding the expedition intended to explore the course of the Niger." The expedition, which

suffered severely from the climate, was intended in some degree to trace the route of the famous traveller, Mungo Park. Captain Campbell was a native of Caithness.

December 12.—To a correspondent who inquires about the increase of legal distilleries, the "Journal" gives some information. "In Ross-shire, we are glad to observe, they are making considerable progress though there alone; we believe there are at present in that shire one of 400 gallons, one of 200, one of 80, and one of 40, and there is also one establishing at Fortrose of 200, and another at Teaninich of the same content; there are two of 40 gallons each in Morayshire, one of 40 gallons in Caithness, and one establishing of 80 gallons in Nairnshire. There are none in Inverness-shire." At Dingwall the previous week several persons had been fined £20 each for illicit distillation.

December 19.—"The Trades of Inverness have established for the benefit of their members a newsroom, which was opened yesterday under the denomination of the Clachnacutin Reading Room." The above spelling is frequently, though not invariably, given to our palladium in the "Journal."

Ibid.—From a letter in this issue we find that the burgh officers and the local hangman were in the habit of going round every Christmas morning for Christmas boxes. Jack Ketch demanded a fee of sixpence, a shilling, or half-a-crown, "just as he thinks you can afford"; and if he did not get what he asked he was wont to be insolent. "Now, in the name of wonder, what right has Jack to lay the inhabitants under contribution? He says for ringing the fish bell; but is he not allowed for this a fish from every creel that is brought to market? Perhaps for keeping the streets clear of beggars; for this duty (while he chose to perform it) he was allowed from the beggars' fund a shilling for every beggar he turned out of town. I cannot therefore conceive on what ground this man is permitted to molest us, unless it be, indeed, to make up for the 3s 4d a head for flogging unfortunate women through the streets, which he has been deprived of by Act of Parliament. Even with this deduction, I think that his salary and perquisites are from £50 to £60 a-year."

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Mr Suter, in his *Memorabilia*, under date 1817, notes that the new bridge was repaired at a cost of £852, paid by the Burgh, and that Bridge Street was widened and improved at private expense.

## No. XII

The first number of the *INVERNESS COURIER* was issued on the 4th of December 1817. We have the prospectus of the paper before us, dated 31st October of the same year. It is entitled "Prospectus of a newspaper to be published weekly at Inverness, and to be called 'The Inverness Courier' and General Advertiser for the Counties of Inverness, Ross, Moray, Wairn, Cromarty, Sutherland, and Caithness." This is the full title still borne on the front page, except that the name of Cromarty is placed earlier in the list. At the time when the paper was projected there was strong party feeling in the burgh, springing, not from politics, but from local questions on which the older paper, the *Journal*, expatiated at great length and with much vehemence. The promoters of the *Courier* announced that they stood "upon open, neutral, independent ground," and that they were "resolved to speak their own minds boldly, and afford to others the means of doing so likewise, on every subject of public interest, under no other restraint than those imposed by a regard for personal feelings and for the rules of decorum and good taste." In discussing measures of national policy the prospectus promised that the new paper would "neither be fiercely intemperate nor tamely indolent." The policy thus foreshadowed was very fairly carried out. On national questions there was little to choose between the two organs. Both supported the Government and the Constitution (the latter word in those days was in frequent use), but their tone was moderate and by no means reactionary. The following paragraph from the prospectus sets forth the chief aims of the promoters of the *Courier* :—

"In the columns of the *Inverness Courier* will be found the political events of the times—the debates of the senate—proceedings of the courts of justice—remarkable occurrences throughout the civilised world—naval and military intelligence—commercial and agricultural lists and reports, and all the other ordinary contents of a newspaper. But the interest and variety of its provincial news will form its distinguishing feature—The earliest and most correct intelligence on local sub-

jects will be assiduously collected from all parts of the country; and the assistance which the Projectors are offered encourages them to promise largely in the department of Original Communication. They are solicitous to direct the attention of their countrymen to the investigation of the history and antiquities of the Northern Counties. —Much also remains to be said in delineation of the local scenery of this mountainous district; and the change of manners has been so rapid and so marked during the last century, as to present a fine field for striking description and interesting anecdote. The Mineralogy of the country has been very imperfectly explored. Occasional insular notices on this subject may draw the attention of scientific persons, and lead to very important and beneficial results—To such communications the columns of the Courier shall be always open. Useful inventions in the arts and sciences will be regularly noticed, and early selections from new, popular, and expensive works will be frequently given. The Projectors further pledge themselves freely to administer, and impartially to apply, salutary remedies for the correction of public abuses, with a solicitude proportioned to the extent and urgency of the evil.”

In May 1881 an Inverness man, the late Sir W. P. Andrew, Chairman of the Scinde, Delhi, and Punjaub Railway, contributed some reminiscences regarding the establishment of the paper. He stated that as a boy at school he well remembered hearing that the Courier was resolved on one evening after supper in his father's house in Church Street. He was sure that Mr Ferguson, afterwards Provost, was of the party, and he thought also Mr Innes, of the Grocery. “The paper was for many years printed and published over Ettles's shop in the High Street, in a house the property of my father, which afterwards was mine. The first editor was Mrs Johnstone, the author of several novels, such as ‘Elizabeth de Bruce,’ ‘Clan Alpin,’ and ‘Meg Dods’ Cookery Book,’ &c. This lady afterwards edited Tait's Magazine. Mrs Johnstone was assisted in her labours by her husband, an old schoolmaster and good grammarian. As a boy it was my fortune to be boarded with them.” From the first the paper had a literary character, and in its early issues there are long reviews of Scott's novel “Rob Roy,” then newly published. The late Dr Carruthers did not become editor until 1828, rather more than ten years after the paper was started.

The *Courier* in its early years consisted of four pages, five columns in each or twenty in all. The page was four inches shorter than the present size. The price per copy was sevenpence, the same as its contemporary at the time, though the original price of the *Journal* was sixpence. Thursday was selected as the day of publication for the *Courier*, and the imprint was as follows:—"Printed and Published (for himself and other proprietors) by W. Ettles, bookseller, Inverness, to whom all communications are to be addressed. Orders will be received by Mr Sievwright, Edinburgh, and Messrs Newton & Co., Warwick Square, London. Price £1 12s per annum credit, and £1 10s when paid in advance."

We have followed the file of the *Journal* to the close of 1817, and do not think it necessary to cull extracts from the *Courier* for the month of its issue during that year. We begin with 1818, and hope in due time to bring index and annals down to the end of the century.

*From the "Inverness Courier."*

1818.

January 1.—A report is given of the proceedings on the retirement of Sir William Grant, who had with distinction filled the office of Master of the Rolls for over sixteen years. Sir William was born at Elchies, on the banks of the Spey, in 1752, and died in 1832. His father James Grant, was a small farmer in Morayshire, and afterwards became Collector of Customs in the Isle of Man. On the death of his parents, William was taken care of by his uncle, a wealthy London merchant. He was educated at the Elgin Grammar School, at King's College, Aberdeen, and at the University of Leyden, and afterwards passed for the English Bar at Lincoln's Inn. He represented the County of Banff in Parliament from 1796 to 1812. "Grant was one of the few lawyers who made a great reputation in the House of Commons." (See Dictionary of National Biography).

*Ibid.*—The occupier of a small farm in the County of Nairn was tried before a Justice of Peace Court, for an assault on a poor woman, a neighbour whom he believed to be guilty of bewitching his son. The father tried to counteract the supposed witchcraft by "scoring the woman above the breath," in this instance scratching



her forehead with a pin. "In consideration of certain circumstances," which are not mentioned, the Justices limited the penalty to a fine of £2, with expenses, intimating that in future they would punish with rigour all such "absurd and unlawful practices."

*Ibid.*—Mr Mackinnon of Corry and Colonel Macdonald of Lyncedale had erected two distilleries in Skye. The size of each still was 100 gallons. About the same date a seizure of malt and whisky was made in Kintail, the officers destroying at least £150 worth of wash and utensils.

January 8.—"We learn that the building of the piers at the Ferry of Invergordon will be carried into effect during the season. The estimated expense is little more than £1000."

January 15.—A paragraph describes improvements which had been effected on the Inverness Harbour. Previously the Harbour would not admit loaded vessels of a size above 130 tons burthen. It was now capable of admitting ships of 400 or 500 tons. From subsequent paragraphs we gather that the notice refers to the Thornbush pier.

*Ibid.*—"Government has lately granted £500 in aid of certain funds contributed and collected by the gentlemen of Skye in behalf of the starving population of that island. It ought to be mentioned to the honour of that worthy patriot and friend of the poor, Charles Grant, Esq., M.P., that to his indefatigable exertions and personal representation to Lord Liverpool, the poor of Skye are chiefly indebted for this last and most seasonable supply."

*Ibid.*—It is stated that a mine of plumhago or graphite had been discovered in Glenstrathfarar. It was situated in a schistose rock close to the Farrar, and several tons of it had been turned out the previous summer.

*Ibid.*—"On the 24th ult., died Mrs Fraser, aged 103 years. She was born in Lochaber, but has resided in Kilmarnock for more than forty years. Her maiden name was Christina Mac-lachlan; and what is most singular, her Highland pride would never allow her to learn one word of English."

January 22.—Violent gales created great damage. The bridge at Torgoil over the Morrison had been broken down, and it is stated that felled trees, belonging to a Greenock Company, to the number of 10,000, had been swept down by the river to Loch-Ness. In a previous issue it was reported that Aberdeen had lost 24,000 tons of shipping by the gales.

*Ibid.*—"Alexander Brodie, Esq., father to the

Marchioness of Huntly, died on the morning of the 15th inst., at his house in South Audley Street, Grosvenor Square, London."

January 29.—It is stated that the fund raised in Inverness for the relief of the unemployed during the winter of 1816 and 1817 amounted in subscriptions from individuals and donations from public bodies to the sum of £513. No fewer than 185 persons, with families dependent on them, were employed by this fund, and at the same time public improvements were effected. "Elegant and commodious roads have been made on both banks of the river; and extensive footpaths have been formed which certainly add much to the comfort and to the health of the inhabitants."

Ibid.—"Mr Lewis Bayne, officer of Excise, lately discovered a private still in Abriachan under very singular circumstances. It was in a vault excavated in a rock which formed the foundation of a house. The floor of the apartment above it was paved, and likewise covered with a bed of clay to the depth of 18 inches, to prevent noise. The entrance was from the stank or gutter of an adjoining byre. The smoke was conveyed into the common chimney of the house." Mr Bayne made his way to the spot by digging and boring, and among other utensils found a tun capable of containing 400 gallons.

Ibid.—A daring theft is reported from Auchterawe, near Fort-Augustus. Two men, "said to be from the western extremity of Lochaber," drove off at midday 101 sheep from the farm, and marched openly with them through Fort-Augustus on the high road to Fort-William. They stopped for refreshments at the Inn of Laggan, where a person who knew the sheep's marks suspected them, and, plying them with whisky, sent a messenger to the shepherds. At the last moment the thieves, though without their spoil, made their escape in a way sufficiently remarkable. "An individual of their own clan or name, which we forbear to mention, having learned their embarrassment, contrived to join their company, and shortly afterwards 'accidentally' snuffed out the candle. Amid the darkness and confusion which ensued the thieves took the liberty to withdraw."

February 5.—"An amusing petition has been presented to the Magistrates and Town Council of Inverness, signed by almost sixty boys attending Raining's School, in which the petitioners deeply deplore some blunders lately committed in their attempts to entertain the congregation of the English Church with a tune after the forenoon service. They attribute their failure

to the want of music books, and therefore earnestly pray to be supplied with them. We understand this humble request has been granted, and the Church Treasurer has been instructed immediately to furnish the number of books required."

**Ibid.**—Typhus fever was at this time making great havoc in Forres. There had previously been a severe outbreak in several parts of Ireland.

**February 19.**—Died at Torbreck, on the 15th inst., in the 76th year of her age, Mrs Ann Russell, wife of Alexander Fraser, Esq., of Torbreck. The paragraph speaks in very high terms of her piety and kindness.

**February 26.**—On Tuesday, 17th, as persons were employed clearing the ground for a new church at Dnnermline, the coffin and bones of King Robert Bruce were discovered. The discovery created much interest.

**March 5.**—There is a notice of the death of Mr Dempster of Dunnichen, who represented the Angus-shire Burghs during many Parliaments, and was known as "The Independent Member" of the House of Commons. After his retirement from Parliament, Mr Dempster resided for several years at his brother's residence of Skibo, in Sutherland. His efforts were directed to the agricultural improvement of the district. He erected two cotton mills at Spinningdale, on the Dornoch Firth. They were, however, too remote to be successful.

**March 12.**—An extract from a Parliamentary paper gives an account of the progress made with the roads in Sutherland, some of which were completed and others approaching completion. A special paragraph describes the works at the Mound, and the difficulties which had been encountered and overcome.

**Ibid.**—"Colonel Grant of Grant, besides making a considerable deduction from the rents of his tenants, has on a large scale supplied the district with which he is more immediately connected with meal, which has been sold out to the tenants at prime cost. The cruel advantage which in seasons of scarcity is sometimes taken of the inhabitants of inland districts is but too well known. We therefore welcome every opportunity of paying our slender tribute of sincere admiration to those Highland proprietors who, like Colonel Grant in the present instance, consider the case of the poor." Sir Æneas Mackintosh of Mackintosh and other proprietors gave about the same time large reductions of rent. On the whole, however, matters seemed to be improving.

*Ibid.*—A large vessel, the *Minerva*, of New York, put in at Ullapool in a disabled state, and was there destroyed by fire. In less than three hours £150,000 worth of goods was consumed. "Fragments of silk and goods of all descriptions were washed ashore from the wreck."

March 19.—Application was made to the Court of Session to reduce the election of the Town Council of Inverness. The petitioners objected to the election on the ground that three of the members of Council were not eligible under the "set" or constitution of the burgh, as they were "neither trafficking merchants nor maltmen." Questions affecting the elections in Edinburgh and Aberdeen were at the same time before the Court.

*Ibid.*—"On Tuesday se'night, one of the men employed in cutting a road through the ruins of the Castle of Dingwall, the stronghold of the Earls of Ross, found a massive gold ring set with a single large diamond. It was discovered six feet beneath the surface, and within three feet of the foundation of the outer wall of the building. Although it bears no inscription, it may be inferred from the workmanship that it was made in an age when the arts were in their infancy. The diameter is 9-10ths of an inch within, and one inch when measured over."

March 26.—There is a summary of an interesting paper read at the Royal Society of Edinburgh by Mr Thomas Dick Lauder of Relugas (or Lauder Dick, as he was called at this time), on the Parallel Roads of Glen Roy. The writer concluded that the roads were formed by lakes that had sunk to different levels, and he advanced hypotheses as to the nature of the barriers. The idea of an ice barrier had not occurred at this time.

*Ibid.*—An advertisement shows that the estate of Sanquhar at Forres was at this time known by the name of Birdsyards.

*Ibid.*—A large meeting assembled at Tain and formed a Highland Society for the counties of Ross, Cromarty, and Sutherland. Those who attended the meeting were "clad in the complete costume of their respective clans."

April 2.—Abriachan again figures as a notorious place of smuggling. The Excise officers found a number of illicit utensils in a cavern, and two stills in an adjoining birch wood. They were attacked by the people rolling down stones from the rocks, and a party of armed men had to be sent to the top for their protection.

*Ibid.*—A paragraph quoted from the "Courant" says:—"Last year Government sent down corn to the distressed Highlanders in Inverness and

its neighbourhood, but being entirely destitute of mills for grinding it, they were under the necessity of returning the corn. A few horizontal wind-mills will soon pay for themselves, and their singular and extensive usefulness will be speedily and powerfully experienced. They would cost from £100 to £200 each, according to size."

*Ibid.*—A public meeting was held at Inverness, Mr Fraser of Relig in the chair, to express their confidence in Provost Robertson and their indignation at attacks made upon him in certain newspaper letters and paragraphs.

*Ibid.*—Married, on the 29th March, at Heighington, in the County of Durham, Duncan George Forbes, Esq. of Culloden, to Sarah, daughter of the late Rev. Joseph Walker, of Lanchester."

April 9.—"The whole population of this county was so effectually drained by the late war that females had gained a predominating and threatening ascendancy in the scale of society. A mechanic in Campbeltown, near Fort-George, has done much to restore the equilibrium—having lately christened his ninth son in succession, all of whom are in life."

*Ibid.*—A letter in this issue mentions several interesting facts. There were two hemp manufactories in the town, and one woollen factory, which produced tartan stuffs only. The other had been given up for some years. Five vessels were employed in the London trade. There were three printing offices in the town.

April 16.—A heavy and protracted snow-storm had been experienced in the Highlands during the winter and spring. A paragraph in this issue says that "the loss of sheep on Highland farms has been latterly beyond calculation."

April 23.—"Died, at Delnies, near Nairn, on the 3rd inst. in the 104th year of his age, John Reid, supposed to be the oldest soldier in his Majesty's dominions, having entered the service in the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Scots 88 years ago." There is a notice of this veteran in our notes of 1811. He fought at Dettingen, Fontenoy, Culloden, at Waal in Holland, and under Wolfe at Quebec. "At the peace of 1763 he was honourably discharged from the Royal Scots, and was appointed to the Independent Company of Invalids at Fort-George. About this time, being nearly 70 years of age, he took to himself a helpmate, by whom he had a family of sons and daughters, whom he brought up in habits of virtue and industry; three of his sons survive him, who are all in the army: his youngest, a young man of great promise, is a sergeant in the 93rd or Sutherland Highlanders. Reid was

a native of Fordyce, in the county of Banff; was of middle size, well made, and of an open and prepossessing countenance; his judgment, naturally vigorous, seemed no ways impaired with age; and his memory, though heedless of 'modern saws and instances,' was more retentive than that of most men at half his age." It is stated that his strength was such that in spite of his great age, he scarcely passed a day without walking three or four miles, and to the day of his death he was able, without the aid of glasses, to read his Bible. The writer of the notice suggests that the people of Nairn and Fort-George should place a stone over the aged soldier's grave.

*Ibid.*—"Died, at Inverness, on the 7th inst., Alexander Fraser, Esq., merchant, who in the various connections and transactions of trade, in all the social and domestic relations, throughout a long and active life, uniformly supported the character of a consistent, practical Christian."

The paragraph goes on to speak in unusually high terms of Mr Fraser's piety and good deeds.

*Ibid.*—"We beg to inform a correspondent that no inhabitant of this town is liable to toll on either of the bridges of the Ness." Apparently, however, outsiders paid toll.

*Ibid.*—A correspondent gives a summary of part of the contents of Burt's Letters, of which an edition had recently been published. The correspondent, comparing the Highlands in 1818 with their condition in Burt's time, scarcely a hundred years before, says—"From Edinburgh to Inverness and from Inverness to John O'Groat's House, it is now possible to travel without crossing a ferry or fording a river, or even encountering a descent where the necessity of using a drag chain is required." Besides the roads executed in the various counties in virtue of their respective road Acts, the great lines of communication had been undertaken and executed at the joint expense of Government and of the Highland proprietors. "By the last report of the Commissioners it appears that under the Act 44 George 3 Cap. 75, they had nearly finished 950 miles of new roads and 1100 bridges, at an expense of about £427,500 sterling—one-half of which was contributed by the Government and the other half by the Highland proprietors. Of this immense sum, about £138,358 14s 2d was laid out on the County of Inverness alone."

April 30.—The anniversary of the Medical Society of the North was held on the 27th inst. Its affairs were in a prosperous condition. A professional library and a fund for the erection of

a building to accommodate the Society were commenced; and a scale for the guidance of the public in settling accounts was adopted. The following gentlemen were elected office-bearers for the ensuing year:—President—P. Macarthur, Esq., Delnias; vice-presidents—N. Smith, M.D., Forres; William Kennedy, M.D., Inverness; Alexander Macdonald, M.D., Inverness. Council—J. Robertson, M.D., Inverness; J. E. Gray, do., Inverness; M. Bethune, surgeon, Inverness; M. Bethune, do.; J. Inglis Nicol, secretary.

Ibid.—At the Circuit Court on the 28th, two men from Rothiemurchus were tried on a charge of having murdered Alexander Robertson, late ensign in the Royal Westminster Middlesex Militia. It appears that a party dined at Dell, and afterwards adjourned to the Boat-house of Rothiemurchus, where they drank whisky toddy and indulged in a good deal of horseplay, which ended in a series of scuffles. The deceased received a blow on the temple which caused him to reel, and inflicted a wound from which blood proceeded. He walked three or four miles the same night, and several the following day; but then took to his bed, and died after lingering for five weeks. The question was whether there was any instrument in the hand of the man who inflicted the blow. Apparently there was not. He was, however, convicted of culpable homicide and sentenced to 14 years' transportation. The report gives no evidence of any kind against his companion, and he was unanimously acquitted. Another curious case at the same Court was that of a man from Ross-shire, charged with the crime of attempting to induce a physician to enter into a conspiracy to administer poison to his wife. The accused pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 9 months' imprisonment in the jail of Tain. A man accused of sheep-stealing failed to appear, and was outlawed. The presiding Judge, Lord Gillies, expressed his regret that sheep-stealing was now becoming alarmingly frequent, and he declared that if any persons were convicted of the crime the highest penalty of the law would be inflicted. He said that at the Aberdeen Circuit a young man, found guilty of sheep-stealing, had been condemned to death, although he was but 17 years of age. This sentence was actually carried into effect.

## No. XIII.

A General Election occurred in the summer of 1818, when Mr Charles Grant, senior, retired from the representation of the County, and the younger Charles, afterwards Lord Gleneig, succeeded him as County member. The latter, since November 1811, had represented the Inverness District of Burghs, and was now succeeded by Mr George Cumming. The Highland Lady, daughter of Sir J. P. Grant of Rothiemurchus, has an interesting passage in her Reminiscences regarding the two Grants. Writing under date 1814 she says:—

“There was a party at Belleville during some days when, for the first time to my recollection, I saw him whom by courtesy for many years we continued to call young Charles Grant. Writing that once familiar name is pleasant to me, recalling so much that was enjoyable, although some little that awakens regret. He was no ordinary man, and to be so thoroughly estranged from one who had been quite a son of the house, a dear elder brother, is cause for grief in a world where few of us ever suit sufficiently for intimacy. There was no fault on either part, it was merely that our paths through life lay differently. His father had been with us most summers; he was our county member, so had to come to look after political interests. He was now intending to introduce his son to the electors against the time when he should himself, from age or weariness, disincline to continue in Parliament. The north country owed him much; we got canals, roads, bridges, cadetships, and writerships in almost undue proportion. My father, his firm friend and most useful supporter, seldom applied in vain for anything in the old Director’s power to give. We had reason to be grateful for all his many kindnesses, but he was never to any of us the delightful companion that we found his son.

“Young Charles was at this time deeply in love with Emilia Cumming [of Altyre]. She was a lovely-looking woman—not a regular beauty, but more attractive than many handsome persons. Old Charles Grant had reasons for forbidding a marriage between them, and they were good ones, acquiesced in by his son, who yet had not the resolution to avoid her society. Year after year he dangled about her till her youth and her beauty



went, and he found absence no longer a difficulty. Neither of them married.

"Mrs Macpherson [of Belleville] who had known him from a child, was really absurdly attached to him. She was anxious we should make an agreeable impression on each other. I do not remember that he spoke ten words to me, nor looked a second time at the childish girl quite overpraised to him. On my part half a look was enough; I thought him hideous, tall, thin, yellow, grave, with sandy hair, small light eyes, and a shy, awkward manner, though nearly as old as my father, and already of some note among clever men. These were the dear friends of other days! We have often laughed over our introduction."

The action which was raised at the instance of Mr James Lyon for the reduction of the election of the Town Council and Magistrates of Inverness came to a close in December 1818. The burgh was for a time disfranchised. The late James Suter says, under this year's date:—"The late Magistrates were appointed by the Court of Session interim managers for two years, at the termination of which they were re-appointed." This is substantially, but not strictly, accurate. According to the set or constitution of the burgh framed in 1676 it was provided that "all persons to be chosen Councillors or Magistrates in time coming, within this burgh, shall be actual residents within the samen and liberties thereof, and actual trafficking merchants or maltmen allenary." The objection taken by Mr Lyon was that one Councillor (an ex-Provost) and two Bailies were neither trafficking merchants nor maltmen. The Magistrates contended that this supposed requisite had been abrogated by usage and had fallen into desuetude. The Court of Session resolved to have the following issue tried by jury:—"Whether it has been an usage or practice in the Burgh of Inverness, for a period of forty years or upwards, to elect Magistrates or Councillors without regard to the fact whether the said persons were or were not at the period of such election actual trafficking merchants or maltmen within the burgh." When the issue had been specified, the question arose as to where the trial should take place. The Provost and Magistrates wished to have it at Inverness. Mr Lyon contended that a fair trial could not be obtained before an Inverness jury, and

moved to have it in Edinburgh. The point was decided in his favour, and the Magistrates then abandoned the defence and allowed judgment to be given against them, "rather than submit to the inconvenience, disadvantages, and expense" that a trial in Edinburgh would involve. The Court of Session, however, disposed to countenance authority, and considering the error a mere technicality, supported the Magistrates and Town Council as far as they could. They retained all the qualified Magistrates as managers of the town's affairs, and allowed them to select other two in room of the men whose qualifications were found inadequate.

The same year the question which had arisen in Aberdeen was decided. The state of affairs in that city had no parallel in Inverness. Behind the question of technicality there were grievances of the most substantial kind. "Aberdeen," says Mr Spencer Walpole, "was one of the worst examples of an unreformed corporation. The burgh was corrupt; the revenues were insufficient to pay the interest of its debt; the Magistrates were themselves of opinion that some change should be effected in the manner of electing the Council, and that an effectual control should be given to the citizens over the expenditure of the town's office-bearers. An opportunity for reforming Aberdeen occurred in 1817. By the constitution of the burgh forty persons were appointed to take part in the annual election of the Magistrates. In the absence of one of the forty, a person possessing the qualification of the absentee was required to be elected as proxy for him. In 1817 a proxy was elected who could not prove that he was a burgess. The Government, on being made acquainted with the facts, 'reduced' or voided the election. Instead, however, of declaring a poll election, and authorising the burgesses to elect their own Magistrates, the Government authorised the Magistrates to proceed to a fresh election. The Magistrates at Aberdeen, in their judgment, had innocently fallen into a trivial error." At this time, indeed, the Government, alarmed by agitation, set their face against anything in the nature of reform.

*From the "Inverness Courier."*

1818 (Continued).

May 14.—It is stated that within the last few years the exportation of wood from the port of Inverness had become a business of considerable importance, and the Magistrates now appointed two competent persons as sworn measurers. The two were Evander Campbell and Hector Douglas.

Ibid.—“At a Justice of Peace Court held here on Tuesday last, for the conviction of persons for trespasses against the Excise laws, sixteen offenders were fined £20 and nine £25 for illegal distillation, and two from Strathglass to the extent of £60 each. Several persons were fined smaller sums for malting, &c. The Justices expressed their determination to put a stop to a traffic so extremely injurious to the best interests of the country.”

Ibid.—“The news of the birth of a son and heir to the ancient and popular family of Seaforth has been received by the Clan Mackenzie and throughout the North with lively demonstrations of joy. From this quarter we could descry the bonfires playing on the hills of Ross-shire in honour of the welcome stranger.”

May 21.—“Upwards of 1500 head of cattle passed through this town last week, and about 500 were driven to the west, by Fort-Augustus. They were purchased at the Ross-shire Trysts at nearly double the price which the same description of cattle brought last season.”

Ibid.—The County of Banff, at their general meeting on 30th April, resolved on making an application for a mail coach, with the full complement of four horses, to the North of Aberdeen, in place of the present mail diligence.

May 28.—“The Highland Society of Scotland have, in a very patriotic manner, offered a premium of 50 guineas for the best essay on the means of attaining so desirable an object as the introduction of railways for the purposes of general carriage.”

Ibid.—It is stated that 30 Chelsea pensioners, afflicted with blindness, were residing in Inverness and neighbourhood. Fourteen had been selected to go to London to undergo an operation in the hope that they might recover their sight.

Ibid.—“Loch-Ness is now enlivened by a number of small vessels passing to and from Fort-Augustus, where the operations of the Canal are in the greatest activity. During the last week eight sloops were on the lake at one time.”

June 4.—“The advantages of the Caledonian Canal

to the district through which it passes begin already to be manifest. English coals, which formerly were carried over-land from this town to Fort-Augustus, and sold there at 4s 6d per barrel, have been sold this summer in that neighbourhood, when brought by the Canal, at 2s 6d."

Ibid.—A paragraph from an Aberdeen paper states that on the 23rd ult., the dead body of a man named Robert Gooden or Goodwin, a soap-boiler, and a native of the parish of Forres, had been found in the Clyde. The "Courier" adds—"We observe from the description and name of the person alluded to that he was the same individual who, on the 12th March 1801, while employed in his usual occupation of candle-making in Inverness, left his tallow kettle to boil over, by which the house was set on fire, and before the accident was discovered, the fire had communicated to a quantity of gunpowder (not less than 8½ barrels), which exploded: 14 persons lost their lives, and the shock and destruction thus occasioned will ever be remembered in Inverness by all who experienced the sad effects of it."

Ibid.—"On Saturday the General Assembly took into consideration a reference from the Presbyteries of Strathbogie and Aberlour, referring to the Assembly the conduct of Mr John Macdonald, minister of Urquhart, in preaching in other parishes than his own within the bounds of the above Presbyteries. Mr Cruickshanks, a member of the Presbytery of Strathbogie, was heard in support of the reference, and Mr Macdonald in explanation. After long reasoning, a motion was made and carried prohibiting the practice referred to." A somewhat fuller report of the case is given in the next issue.

June 11.—"We are glad to observe that the Magistrates have employed workmen to make a covered drain to convey the water which runs down Church Street, from the old Grammar School lane across the street and through the opposite lane to the river. Independently of the comfort that will be derived from having the dirty water conveyed under ground, instead of on the surface of the street, this will really be a considerable improvement, by doing away with the disagreeable hollow in the street at that place, which was very dangerous and annoying for carriages and carts."

Ibid.—The annual meeting of the Northern Missionary Society was held at Inverness. Appropriate sermons were preached by the Rev. John Macdonald of Urquhart and the Rev. Angus Mackintosh, of Tain. The amount of

collections, subscriptions, and donations was £88 13s 4d, including £10 from the parish of Killearnan, sent by the Rev. John Kennedy.

June 18.—On Wednesday, 10th curt., Parliament was dissolved by the Prince Regent in person, who went in state to the House of Peers.

*Ibid.*—There is a glowing report of the Inverness Sheep and Wool Market, which had “answered every expectation formed of it.” It is stated that blackfaced wool, which sold last year at 18s and 19s per double stone, brought this year from 40s to 45s. Cheviot wool, which brought last year 20s to 21s, sold this year from 40s to 42s per single stone. Wedders, which sold last year at 15s and 16s, sold this year at from 20s to 30s. Lambs brought last year 5s, this year from 8s to 10s. “Thus the prices are fully a hundred per cent. above those of last year, and about 150 per cent. above those of 1816. We learn that one gentleman has refused £5 per stone for a parcel of merino wool.”

*Ibid.*—There is a report of a duel in Ross-shire between two gentlemen, designated as Messrs H.M. and D.R. They met at an early hour, and fired at the same time without effect. Their friends suggested a reconciliation, but one of the parties insisted on another exchange of shots. On this occasion the pistol of one (the less aggressive) missed fire, and he declined to avail himself of the advantage of firing again. “Such honourable conduct disarming hostility, a reconciliation was effected, and the parties left the field good friends.”

*Ibid.*—The same issue contains the address of Mr Charles Grant, senior, who was retiring from the representation of the county of Inverness, and the address of his son, Mr Charles Grant, junior, who was leaving the Burghs to succeed as member for the County. The father, who had sat through a period of sixteen years, full, as he said, “of momentous events” observed that he could not “contemplate the cessation of the public connection which had so long subsisted without feelings of affectionate regret.” His wishes had been ardent both for the great interests of the country, and for the particular welfare of the county to which he was bound by so many ties. “But of any services that I have rendered to either, it will perhaps be safer for me to rest in the opinion which your kindness may have led you to form than to offer any sentiment of my own; for I indeed sincerely lament that I have not done more.” His son, in soliciting election, expresses the desire to be useful both to the county of Inverness and to the country at large. He does not think it

necessary to say much, because with many of the freeholders he enjoyed the happiness of private friendship, and to all of them his public principles and conduct were sufficiently known.

Ibid.—“Died, on the 12th inst., in the 60th year of his age, Robert Nicholson, Esq., late Adjutant of the Inverness Recruiting District, having faithfully served his King and country in different quarters of the globe for the long period of 43 years.”

Ibid.—An advertisement states that the Marquis of Stafford has agreed to erect a distillery on the river Brora for the accommodation of the Sutherland tenants. They desire to engage “with some person of skill and capital inclined to embark in such an undertaking.”

Ibid.—“The non-commissioned officers and privates of the 95th Regiment of Sutherland Highlanders, while serving their country in the South of Africa, contributed in the course of 18 months no less than £1000 in aid of missionary societies; and at the same time they subscribed £78 to the Gaelic School Society. So distinguished an instance of liberality on the part of these men, in connection with their exemplary moral conduct and their bravery in the field, completely justifies that illustrious statesman Lord Chatham in the encomiums which he bestowed on these hardy mountaineers.”

June 25.—“We see with much pleasure that a new line of road to the town from Telford Street, by the Stone Bridge, has just been marked out. The present entrance in that direction passes through all the filth of the Green of Muirtown, which is by far the most disagreeable and irregular access to the town; the new entrance will pass directly from the line of elegant buildings in Telford Street, through the field on the north of the hovels on the Green, by Well’s Foundry, to the fine embankment lately formed on the west side of the river. The ground to be occupied by the new road, which is to be forty feet broad, has, we understand, been liberally given for the purpose by the proprietor, Mr Duff of Muirtown, without any remuneration; and we have no doubt that his public spirit will be rewarded by the enhanced value of his fine property adjoining, which affords most eligible sites for building. Few individuals in this quarter have done more for the improvement of the neighbourhood of Inverness than this gentleman.”

July 2.—“The Court of Session has ordered a proof to be taken before a jury in the question now pending regarding the last election of Magistrates for Inverness. The point at issue is

this—The set of the burgh, according to the letter, requires that the Town Council should consist of 21 members, viz., 18 burgesses, who are actually trafficking merchants or maltmen, and 3 deacons of crafts. The complainer, James Lyon, asserts that at the last election three gentlemen were appointed, viz., Provost Gilzean, Bailie Alexander Mackenzie, banker; and Bailie Farquhar Macdonald, who, though resident burgesses and guild brethren, yet are neither trafficking merchants nor maltmen; and prays for this reason that the whole election be declared null and void. The Town Council defends the nomination of the persons objected to on various grounds, but principally on that of confirmed usage. The Court sustains the argument of the Magistrates that in such a case a certain extent of practice may sanction a deviation from written law, and orders the present proof to ascertain how far the Magistrates can on this plea support their election." The case was not expected to be submitted to the jury until the following November.

*Ibid.*—Mr J. P. Grant of Rothiemurchus lost his seat for Grimsby.

*Ibid.*—"Died here on the 16th June, aged 89 years, Alexander Macbean, who for a number of years acted as janitor of the Inverness Academy. Many of our young countrymen now situated in distant regions will read this notice with affectionate regret; the name of this once lively friend of their 'smiling boyhood' will call back to memory the sportful scenes of early years, and 'touch a chord in their hearts that will vibrate with the sounds of other times.'"

July 9.—There was a contest for the representation of the County of Ross, the candidates being Mr Thomas Mackenzie, yr. of Applecross, and Mr Alexander Fraser of Inchcoulter. The freeholders met at Tain. The first trial of strength was for the election of Chairman, when Sir Hector Mackenzie, Bart. of Gairloch, was appointed by a majority of 6 votes, in preference to Mr Hugh Innes of Lochalsh (28 to 22). The election of Mr Mackenzie, yr. of Applecross, was moved by Mr Mackenzie of Kilcoy, and seconded by Mr Macleod of Geanies, Sheriff of the County. The election of Mr Fraser of Inchcoulter was moved by Colonel Munro of Culcairn, and seconded by Mr Mackenzie of Mountgerald. The vote resulted—For Applecross, 29; for Inchcoulter, 23; majority for Applecross, 6. The Highland Lady describes the new member as a man of ability, and "the catch of the North Country from the extent of his

property.' He never, however, enjoyed robust health. "Immediately after his election, Mr Mackenzie ordered a dinner to the prisoners in the jails of Tain, Dingwall, and Fortrose. He also sent a donation to the poor of each of these burghs."

July 16.—On the previous Tuesday Mr Charles Grant jr., was unanimously elected M.P. for the county of Inverness. His father presided at the meeting. The election of the new member was moved by Colonel Macdonell of Glen-garry, and seconded by Mr Baillie of Dochfour. Mr Charles Grant, jr., now became Secretary for Ireland.

Ibid.—At the same meeting of freeholders, Macleod of Macleod proposed that Mr Charles Grant, senior, be requested to sit for his portrait, to be hung up in the Court-room as a permanent mark of the esteem which the county entertained for him on account of his Parliamentary conduct and private worth and virtues. This proposal met with cordial approbation. At the same time an address, signed by the freeholders, was presented to the late member.

Ibid.—Mr George Cumming, London, one of the Altyre family, was elected M.P. for the Inverness District of Burghs. The returning burgh was Nairn. The name of Sir Wm. Gordon-Cumming was first mentioned for the vacancy, but he gave way to his relative—Mr Hugh Innes of Lochalsh was re-elected member for the Northern Burghs.—Mr Macleod, jr. of Cadboll, was elected for the counties of Cromarty and Nairn.—Colonel Francis William Grant of Grant was elected for Morayshire.—Mr Robert Grant (another son of Mr Charles Grant of Waternish) was elected for the Elgin District of Burghs.—Mr Grant of Ballindalloch was elected for the County of Sutherland.—The Earl of Fife was elected for the County of Banff.

July 23.—Mr George Sinclair, jr. of Ulbster, was elected M.P. for Caithness.—Captain G. H. Dundas, R.N., was, after a contest, elected for Orkney and Shetland.

Ibid.—"The site of the stronghold of the once powerful Earls of Ross at Dingwall has been levelled this season, and is now under crop. There remaineth hut a single fragment of the building to mark where a castle had been." This fragment, we believe, still remains.

August 6.—It is stated that the summer was the warmest since that of 1779. A very early harvest was expected.

Ibid.—A correspondent complains that horses were driven like sheep or cows to be watered at the



river. "It is a common thing to see half-a-dozen of them at a time galloping through one of those very narrow lanes which run from Church Street to the river, and that, too, when the lane is full of people passing and repassing."

August 20.—"The new walk on the bank of the Ness, called the Ladies' Walk, from its having been formed last year at the expense of some respectable ladies, has lately been much improved; and the injuries done to it by the high floods during the last winter are now completely repaired. The money presently laid out on this pleasant promenade is supplied by the amount of a bet on the issue of the late Parliamentary election for this District of Burghs, which the winner generously appropriated for the purpose; and some small subscriptions from a few individuals."

August 27.—A paragraph draws attention to the hardships to which Highland reapers were exposed by going South before there was employment for them. This season, however, the harvest was so early that little harm could be done by an early arrival.

September 3.—The annual report of the Caledonian Canal (dated October 1817) mentions that the quarry at Redcastle had been worked from March to July in order to procure stones for the hollow quoins, segment stones, and pavement for the lower recesses of the lock at Fort-Augustus. "The vessels which carry materials, &c., from Clachnaharry to Fort-Augustus have now navigated Loch-Ness two years without any accident or even the slightest injury."

Ibid.—The Inverness Town Council made some modification on the table of shore dues. "It is said that the value of these dues, which sold at the roup last year for £685, will be reduced about £60 by the change."

Ibid.—The nineteenth anniversary of the Northern Missionary Society was held at Tain on 26th August, when the Rev. John Macdonald of Urruhart preached in English, and the Rev. John Kennedy, Killlearnan, preached in Gaelic. "The collections, donations, and subscriptions on this occasion amounted to £88 18s 3½d. in which sum is included £10, per the Rev. Mr Macdonald, from the Ferrintosh Penny-a-Week Society, and £6 8s, per the Rev. Mr Forbes, from a similar Association in the parish of Tarbet; by this accession to their funds, the Society were enabled to vote for the London Missionary Society, £100; the Edinburgh Missionary Society, £100; the Hibernian Society, £50; the Moravian Society, £50; and to the

Society for the Conversion of the Jews, £50; total—£350.”

*Ibid.*—“In the little port of Helmsdale, where six years ago there was not a hut nor a fishing boat, several curing-houses are erected on the most approved plan, and the number of boats amounts to 140. Upwards of 15,000 barrels of herrings have been cured here this season, besides a quantity which has been smoked.”

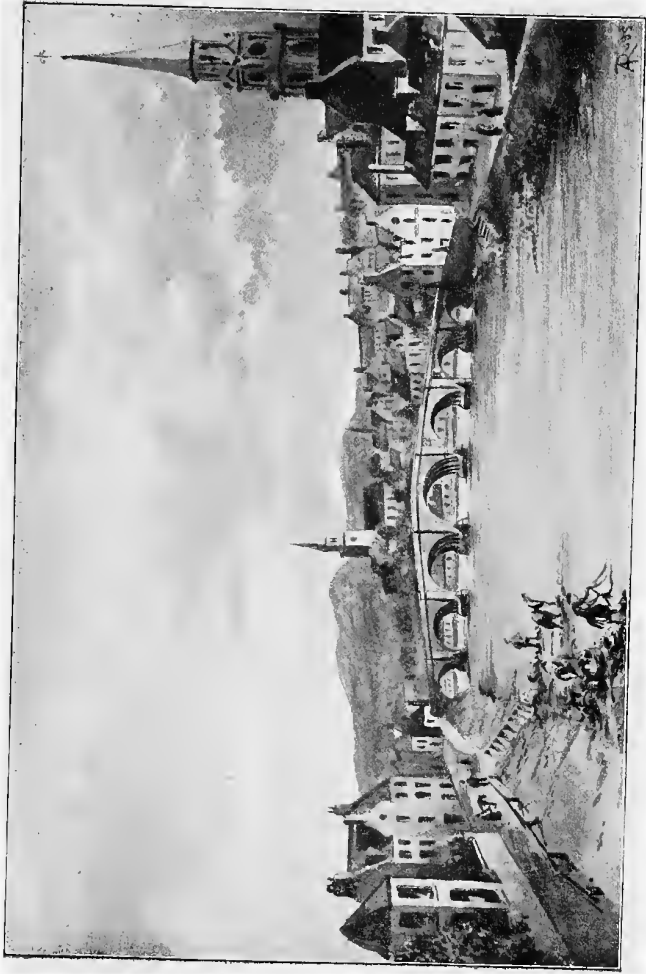
September 17.—An advertisement in this issue calls a meeting for the purpose of taking steps to erect bridges connecting the Islands with “the much-frequented walks on both sides of the river.” A paragraph states that excellent paths had already been formed on both banks of the river, but the Islands remained isolated. [By the way, the spot is called “Island,” not “Islands”; possibly the central channel had not then been formed.]

*Ibid.*—“The workmen employed in digging out gravel from the summit of the Hill above the Haugh Brewery found last week the skeletons of three grown persons in coffins, the bones perfectly entire. A body was found in a similar situation last year near the same place. Report will have it that the brow of the hill was used in former times as a burying-place for the unfortunate persons who were executed in this quarter, and there is some colour of truth in the supposition from its vicinity to the old place of execution in the Gallow Muir. Some old inhabitants of the town, on the other hand, say that when the Duke of Cumberland’s army visited Inverness in April 1746, after the battle of Culloden, many deaths occurred amongst his men, and that some of them were interred in this ground.”

September 24.—The previous day a meeting took place in the Athenæum to consider the proposed erection of chain bridges to connect the Island with the river banks. Mr Fraser, yr. of Torbreck, presided. The meeting resolved to proceed with the scheme, and upwards of £100 was at once subscribed. A week afterwards the subscriptions amounted to £200.

*Ibid.*—Mr James Robertson, M.D., was re-elected Provost. There were two ex-Provosts in the Council, namely, James Grant and Thomas Gilzean.

*Ibid.*—A proposal was made to start a mail diligence to Thurso. The Magistrates and Council agreed to allow it to pass either of the bridges toll free, and the same privilege was granted at Bonar-Bridge and Helmsdale. The counties of Ross and Sutherland had each subscribed £200 to assist the movement. The diligence was expected to start in the following spring.



THE OLD STONE BRIDGE  
CARRIED AWAY IN 1849.



*Ibid.*—At the Circuit Court, held on the 18th inst., there were nine cases, six of which were for assaulting and deforcing Revenue officers. The persons convicted were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment.

October 1.—At the Michaelmas Head Court the Constables for the current year were sworn in. Provost Robertson addressed them on the occasion. “He stated that they were chosen from among their townsmen as Constables in consequence of being heads of families and men of respectable character; and he requested that they should continue to exhibit that propriety of behaviour and moderation in the exercise of their public duties which had hitherto distinguished them. He especially recommended to them a rigid enforcement, in so far as depended on them, of the public duties of the Sabbath, and a vigilant superintendence of public-houses; also a constant co-operation with the Society for the suppression of begging. He next stated that it was the firm determination of the Magistrates to put a stop to the pernicious and dangerous practice of allowing horses to go to the water without some persons to lead them, and requested the Constables, for the safety of their own families as well as for the good of the community, to be vigilant in detecting and bringing to punishment any who might henceforth offend in this particular. He also generally recommended to them the care of the public walks, the banks of the river, and other matters of police regulation. He concluded the address with an earnest exhortation to them, and to heads of families in general, to impress on the minds of their inmates and of all under their guidance the necessity of keeping regular hours.”

*Ibid.*—The revenue of the town from Petty Customs and pontages amounted this year to £308; from shore dues and anchorage, £575; from all sources, £990. In 1817 the total was £1096, but in 1816 only £882.

October 8.—“On Tuesday evening a meeting of the Corporation of Wrights and Coopers was held for the purpose of forwarding the cause of Burgh Reform in this town; several resolutions in favour of that object being proposed, were rejected without a division. This Corporation is the most numerous and respectable of the six Trades; it contains above 30 out of the 75 burgesses which form the whole of the Trades’ Burgesses of this town.”

October 15.—The Right Hon. Charles Grant, M.P. for the county of Inverness, and Chief Secretary for Ireland, was present with his

father, and with the Lord-Lieutenant and other distinguished guests, at a banquet given at Dublin on the 3rd inst. by the new Lord Mayor, Alderman M'Kenny. The health of the Chief Secretary was drunk amid loud applause, and Mr Grant replied. An incident is noticed in the report. "When Mr Grant concluded and took his seat, the band instantly played 'Croppies lie down.' The Lord Mayor directed a look of astonishment and rebuke towards the orchestra, and the tune was discontinued."

*Ibid.*—The Magistrates and Town Council voted £70 to assist in the construction of the new line of road "marked out in the direction of Telford Street from the river side to avoid passing through the Green of Muirtown."

*Ibid.*—Many ingenious efforts were made about this time to discover "perpetual motion," and claimants to the discovery frequently appeared. Among the rest, Mr Lewis Bayne, officer of Excise, Inverness, believed that he had constructed a perpetually moving timepiece. "The machine is kept in motion by means of magnetic attraction; but in the construction of it Mr Bayne makes use of but one magnet [another inventor required two]. It is only about six months since this very ingenious timepiece was shown to us, but there are several inhabitants of this place who have seen it going these two years past."

October 29.—The Northern Meeting began on the 21st. The Marquis and Marchioness of Huntly were present. Hon. Mrs Stewart Mackenzie of Seaforth and Hon. Mrs Fraser of Lovat sent in abundant supplies of venison, muirfowl, and ptarmigan.

*Ibid.*—At a meeting of the Forres Trafalgar Club a sum of forty guineas, to purchase a marble bust of Lord Nelson to be placed in the monument on Cluny Hill, was announced as the donation of the Rev. Hugh Fraser, Georgetown, South Carolina. The Rev. John Macdonell proposed that a Committee should be appointed to procure busts both of Lord Nelson and the Marquis of Huntly. This was agreed to with acclamation. The company consisted of fifty-five gentlemen, some of whom had come from a great distance. Among them were many naval and military officers who had distinguished themselves in the service of their country.

November 5.—The woollen factory at Inverness belonging to Messrs Mackenzie, Gordon, & Co. is advertised for sale. The houses were in the Haugh, the store room at the Shore, and the carding and waulk mills on the bank of the river.

*Ibid.*—"It is calculated that the black cattle, wool, sheep, and herrings sold and sent from the Highland district of Scotland north of the Spey to the other quarters of the Kingdom within the last six months amount in value to at least £500,000; a greater sum than was perhaps ever before received in one year from the whole produce of this district. We are happy in being able to state that these great branches of our provincial exports have been at no period in more flourishing circumstances than at present. The only extensive manufactories in this quarter, namely, those of hemp-bagging, begin to participate likewise in the rapidly returning prosperity of the country."

*Ibid.*—An article appears in the same number on the subject of burgh reform. The writer is in favour of reform, but points out that the affairs of the town of Inverness are well administered. "The revenue of this town," he says, "is £1559, of which every shilling is honestly expended for the public good, and, in as far as we can judge, as discreetly as honestly. In this town more money is devoted to the support of schools than in any other town of the Kingdom with double the revenue; and it is a singular and an honourable fact that not a single glass of wine is from year's end to year's end paid for from the public funds for the entertainment of public men." This, it may be remarked, forms a striking contrast to the state of affairs in the burgh of Pittenweem. The revenue of that burgh was £300, and it was represented in Parliament by the Lord Advocate. In a note to a Parliamentary return, it is stated, on the authority of the Provost and Town-Clerk, "that the balance of its income is mostly expended in the annual election dinner of the Magistrates and in celebrating the King's birthday."

November 12.—A smart shock of earthquake was felt in Inverness and neighbourhood on 10th inst. It occurred at 20 minutes past midnight, and was felt along the banks of Loch-Ness.

November 19.—A Society was formed in Inverness to co-operate with a Society in Edinburgh for the support of Gaelic schools in the Highlands. It was stated that 70 schools had already been erected. The object of the Society was to teach Gaelic in the districts where that language prevailed, and in certain cases English and writing.

*Ibid.*—A correspondent of the "Times" gave a very unpleasant account of the gaol in Inverness; "a corner building at the junction of the two main streets," namely, Bridge Street and

Church Street. "The outer door of the prison opens into the main street, and immediately on entering you perceive a flight of steps on either hand; that on the left leads to the court-room, where prisoners are tried; the deal boards with which the court is fitted up have never been painted, and the dirt on them and on the walls gave to both rather a miserable appearance." At the top of the opposite flight of steps a door opened into a stone gallery facing the cells. This gallery was the appointed place for airing and recreation, "and as often as the prisoners avail themselves of it," says the writer, "they are exposed like wild beasts in a cage to every passenger below." At the time of his visit there was only one criminal prisoner, who had been tried for an attempt to assassinate, and sentenced to confinement on account of derangement. This poor man's cell is described as horribly loathsome. He had been in it for six years. "There were no other prisoners at the time I am speaking of, except seven debtors; one of these was by himself in a room sufficiently commodious, but very dirty; the other six were in a room much smaller, but still more dirty; they all looked very sickly." The "Courier" devotes an article to this communication, which it describes as exaggerated. It says that the prison certainly ought not to be in the centre of the town, but that in many respects its construction was better than that of most Scottish prisons. "The grated gallery or arcade which extends along the whole front of the prison, whatever it may appear to chance visitors, affords the prisoners the liveliest amusement. It overlooks the busiest part of the town, and gives them an opportunity of seeing and hearing all that is going forward. There may be some solid objection to this too familiar intercourse with the street, but the charge of exposing them like wild beasts in a cage must be laughed at by every one who knows anything about the real condition of the persons said to be exhibited." As for the poor criminal, the writer says, he had since his commitment become furiously mad, and annoyed the whole town by his "nocturnal bellowings." He was, however, confined under a warrant of the Justiciary Court till bail could be found and the town was meantime obliged to submit to the infliction. If six debtors were found in one room, it must have been from their own choice and in the day-time only.

November 26.—This number contains an account of the death of Queen Charlotte, which occurred on the 17th November. The Magistrates of



Inverness directed that the pulpit of "the English Church" should be draped with black cloth as a mark of respect for her late Majesty.

Ibid.—The prevalence of strong southerly winds favoured the passage of vessels coming North. "The smack *George*, from London, arrived at Cromarty on Saturday, 21st inst., after a passage of 84 hours, having left Gravesend on Wednesday, 18th. The *Lizard*, from Leith, arrived also at Cromarty on Monday last, the 23rd, after a passage of only 33 hours."

December 3.—"We understand a new complaint has been instituted in the Court of Session by Mr James Lyon, ironmonger, aided by Deacon Alexander Petrie, of the Shoemakers, and Deacon Donald Macbean, of the Tailors, against the last election of the Magistrates and Town Council of Inverness."

December 10.—A Committee of the House of Commons were at this time considering the condition of the burgh gaols in Scotland, and nearly two columns are devoted to a statement furnished by Provost Robertson. The Provost says frankly that the gaol was not sufficient for the accommodation of either the civil or criminal prisoners confined therein; but so far as the accommodation went it was perfectly adequate to the secure custody of its inmates. The gaol was built about 30 years before, chiefly at the expense of the burgh, with a contribution of £1000 from the Government, made out of the confiscated estates, and some assistance "comparatively trifling" from the counties of Inverness, Ross, Nairn, and Cromarty. The gaol had since been kept in repair solely at the expense of the burgh. The Steeple had been erected at the expense of the burgh, aided by individual subscriptions.

Ibid.—The action of James Lyon v. the Magistrates and Town Council of Inverness was originally fixed to be tried before a jury in the town of Inverness, but was afterwards changed to Edinburgh, and the 14th December fixed for the proceedings. The Magistrates, however, considered it inexpedient to go to Edinburgh, and the disfranchisement of the burgh was now anticipated.

December 24.—The dignity of a baronet of the United Kingdom was conferred on Hugh Innes of Lochalsh, in the county of Ross, and of Copton, in the county of Moray.

Ibid.—This issue gives a full narrative of the action raised by James Lyon against the Magistrates and Town Council and of its result. The Magistrates abandoned the defence rather than submit to the inconvenience and expense

of presenting their case before a jury in Edinburgh. A petition was then presented for the appointment of interim managers, and the Second Division took the matter into consideration on the 19th December. As the interim management was claimed exclusively by the late Magistrates, the petition was in so far opposed by Mr Lyon, who asked that himself and two persons of his nomination should be introduced into the temporary administration of the burgh. The precedent of Aberdeen was quoted in support of this application. The Lord Justice Clerk expressed himself in substance as follows:—"That the high opinion which the Court entertained of the gentlemen who had been in the Magistracy of Inverness was in no degree shaken by the recent proceedings at Mr Lyon's instance; that the Magistrates having been unanimously elected, were bound to support their offices, and the Court did not misconstrue the grounds upon which they had been recently advised to abandon their case; that although the Court were compelled to sustain the legal objection offered to the election now reduced, they yet did not view with any favour, and far less with any approbation, the proceedings which rendered that decision necessary; that the Court had resolved to commit the interim management exclusively to the former Magistrates, and their lordships did so with entire confidence in the well known respectability and worth of these gentlemen." The Counsel for Mr Logan, however, insisted that the two persons who had been complained of as ineligible should be kept out of the nomination. The Court acquiesced in this, but allowed the Provost and remaining Magistrates to select their two colleagues. And so the case closed.

## No. XIV.

The subject of Burgh Reform continued to excite attention for several years. We have already referred to the cases of Montrose, Inverness, and Aberdeen. To make the history of the times intelligible, and yet to avoid making long detached quotations from newspaper files, we may once more avail ourselves of Mr Spencer Walpole's *History of England* from 1815. He relates how, in the Session of 1818, Lord Archibald Hamilton drew attention to the case of Montrose, and afterwards threatened to bring up the whole subject of the condition of the burghs. Public opinion having been thus aroused, the Lord Advocate introduced a bill for the better regulating of the revenues of the royal burghs of Scotland. Mr Walpole tells the story as follows:—

“He [the Lord Advocate] proposed that the Magistrates should be compelled to publish their accounts, and that the Court of Exchequer, on the complaint of five burgesses, should have the power of controlling the expenditure. The remedy was a mild one; and, mild as the measure was, it was not persevered with. Its introduction, however, created a profound impression in Scotland. Six-sevenths of the populations of the royal boroughs petitioned for reform. Hardly a single petition was presented on the other side. Hamilton, finding his case thus strengthened, moved that all the petitions should be referred to a select committee, ‘to examine the matter thereof, and to report their observations and opinion thereon to the House.’ It was in vain that William Dundas, speaking with the authority which his name gave to him, resisted all change. It was in vain that Canning warned the House against the experiments of rash speculators in Parliamentary Reform. Two months before, on the 3rd of March, the Ministry had been defeated by Mackintosh on the Criminal Laws. Four days before, Grattan's motion for Roman Catholic emancipation had been carried in the teeth of the Tories. Hamilton's motion was now adopted by 149 votes to 144, or by a majority of 5.

“The Committee, which was thus appointed in 1819, was revived in the new Parliament of 1820, and practically continued its labours for three years. Early in 1822, Hamilton, after referring to the numerous abuses which the reports of the Committee had disclosed, moved that the House

should resolve itself into a Committee of the whole House upon the royal burghs of Scotland. He dwelt on the absurdity of allowing the Magistrates to elect their own successors, and insisted on the necessity of instituting some more popular method of election. But the Ministry was not ready to adopt his views. It was willing to impose some checks on the expenditure of the public funds by the Magistrates, but it was unwilling to adopt any remedy which would open the door to reform. The temporary force which petitions had imparted to Lord Archibald's motion was expended; the Opposition, ignorant of Scotland, were languid; Lord Archibald was defeated by a majority of 81 votes to 46; and the Lord Advocate's counter-proposal was adopted. Some checks were placed on the expenditure of the royal burghs; some restrictions were enforced against the improvident creation of debt; but the burghs themselves were unreformed; the Magistrates were allowed to go on electing their own successors; and the whole population of the towns of Scotland were excluded from the franchise as completely as the settlers in the backwoods of Canada."

The second half of 1819 was a time of great agitation in the industrial centres of England and the south of Scotland. There were frequent meetings and demonstrations, and the upper classes entertained fears of an attempted revolution. A great gathering held near Manchester in August was dispersed by the Yeomanry and a regiment of cavalry, resulting in the loss of several lives and the injury of many persons. This is known as "the Peterloo Massacre." The Government threw its shield over the local Magistrates, who were primarily to blame, and much controversy ensued. In the autumn session of Parliament the Government succeeded in passing a series of measures called the Six Acts. "These were of varied importance. The first made it easier to prevent out-of-door meetings for political purposes, and was to be in force for five years. The second enabled trials for misdemeanour, which was the usual charge under which political agitators were prosecuted, to be held with less delay. The third, very properly, forbade private persons to engage in military drill, a proceeding tolerated in no civilised State. The fourth was for the more effectual prosecution and punishment of blasphemous and seditious libels. The fifth authorised

Magistrates to seize arms in sixteen counties said to be disturbed, and was to be in force for three years. The sixth was a distinct check on the liberty of the press, for it required all publishers of newspapers to give security in advance for any fines they might incur by uttering blasphemy or sedition. Such an enactment made it harder for a poor man to start a newspaper, and as it stood was an insult to the press at large. All these Acts were stoutly opposed by the Whigs, and, with the exception of the third, were sooner or later repealed" (Ransome's History). During this time the North of Scotland was undisturbed, but reports of the state of affairs fill columns of newspaper files. County meetings were held to support the Government.

The extension of a mail coach service to Wick and Thurso was at this time an important incident. Mr John Anderson, in his Essay on the State of the Highlands, written in 1826, says that previous to the year 1819 the post was conveyed from Inverness to Tain on horseback, and thence across the firths of Dornoch and Loch-Fleet by post-runners to the North Coast. "In 1819 the benefit of the mail coach system was extended even to the Pentland firth. Horses were brought from Edinburgh, and stables and inns erected by Lord Stafford at very considerable expense. By one common bond of intercourse, the two most distant parts of the island, the one situated at the extremity of the English Channel, the other in the latitude of John O'Groat's House, were thus joined together, at a distance of 1082 miles. In no country, it may safely be said, is there a parallel of so rapid a change." Notes on this subject will be found below.

*From the "Inverness Courier."*

1819.

January 7.—The workmen employed in levelling a piece of ground round Dr Robertson's house at Aultnaskiach discovered urns containing human bones. In one of the urns was a flint arrow head, elegantly shaped and doubly barbed. In digging the foundations of the house some years before stone coffins were discovered. Paragraphs on the subject appear in several issues. Another stone coffin was found.

January 14.—John Macleod, the man who had be-

come insane when incarcerated in the prison of Inverness, received a pardon from the Crown. He was then "lodged in one of the lunatic apartments of the Royal Infirmary, with some prospect of cure."

*Ibid.*—On the 3rd inst., the dwelling-house of Auchterblair, parish of Duthil, occupied by Major and Mrs Grant, was burned to the ground. The first notice is in this issue, but there are subsequent accounts. Valuable furniture, china, and books were destroyed.

January 27.—The growth of shipping and the improvement of harbours in the Moray Firth are commented on. "At Inverness the harbour has been greatly improved and extended; at Dingwall a canal and pier have been completed; excellent harbours have been formed at Burghead, Fortrose, Brora, &c., and we understand that the new pier at Nairn is now in a way of being speedily erected." The following statistics are given from the books of the Inverness Custom-house for 1817 and 1818. In 1817 the vessels entered inwards from foreign ports numbered 4; cleared outwards to foreign ports, 4; entered inwards coastwise, 516; cleared outwards coastwise, 439; total number of vessels, 963, and total tonnage, 57,591. In 1818 8 vessels entered from foreign ports; 17 cleared outwards to foreign ports; 521 vessels entered inwards coastwise; 560 cleared outwards coastwise; total number of vessels, 1106; total of tonnage, 63 429. Registered at Inverness to 30th September 1818, 56 vessels of 3391 tons.

February 4.—"The subject to which our attention is at present most strongly attracted is the state of the Burghs in Scotland. This, we are assured, will become an object of legislative interference at no distant period. The state of Edinburgh, Aberdeen, Inverness, and many others, we may rather say every other burgh in Scotland, is such as imperiously calls for some remedy for the ferment which prevails." The subject was brought up in Parliament, as stated above.

*Ibid.*—List of awards by the Highland Society of Scotland to farmers in the Northern Counties, including Nairnshire, Morayshire, and the districts of Badenoch and Strathspey, for improvements in cultivation and in stock.

*Ibid.*—"On Monday last Mr Bayne exhibited in the basin of the Caledonian Canal the model of a frigate, to be impelled by the power of the screw against wind and tide." The vessel is fully described on 4th March. Mr Bayne was evidently a man of inventive talent.

February 18.—“On the welcome news of the birth of an heir to the venerable family of Culloden being received in our neighbourhood, Culloden lighted all its beacons. We would not envy the feelings of a Scotchman who could look on the misty stretch of Culloden Moor, ruddied for the birth of an heir to the line of Duncan Forbes, without some melting of the heart or kindling of the fancy.” The birth thus announced was that of the late Arthur Forbes of Culloden.

*Ibid.*—“Died, on the 8th inst., at Clachnaharry, in the 63rd year of his age, Mr Davidson, resident engineer of the Caledonian Canal. Whether we view Mr Davidson in his official situation, discharging an important trust, or engaged in the relative and social duties of life, he claims our highest admiration. No man possessed a more delicate sense of honour, was actuated by a stricter integrity, or maintained a loftier feeling of independence. When discussion elicited the various stores of his vigorous mind, he gave an inimitable and peculiar strength of expression to his sentiments. His masculine wit was never wielded to wound the feeling of any individual. His benevolence was active, his beneficence unwearied, and his charity unostentations. It may be safely asserted that, of those who had access to his society, none ever left him without becoming either wiser or better.”

*Ibid.*—“At Fermoy, on the 20th ult., Kenneth Mackenzie, Esq., postmaster of that town, and late Captain and Adjutant in his Majesty's Caithness Highlanders. Mr Mackenzie was born at Castle Leathers, and published a collection of excellent Gaelic songs before he left this country.” The paragraph speaks of Mr Mackenzie as a man of sterling worth and an ornament to society.

March 18.—On the previous Tuesday the Right Hon. Charles Grant was unanimously re-elected member for the county of Inverness on his appointment as Secretary for Ireland. The nomination was moved by Sir Aeneas Mackintosh of Mackintosh and seconded by Mr Baillie of Dochfour.

*Ibid.*—The death is recorded of Captain John Stewart, of the 53rd Regiment of Foot, which took place at Knock of Kincairn, Strathspey. He was only 33 years of age, and had served for 16 years. At the storming of Fort Calliger, in the East Indies, in 1812, when leading the Grenadier company up to the breach, he was precipitated down the perpendicular rock on which the fort is built, apparently killed. Al-

though he survived the fall, his death seems to have been ultimately caused by its effects.

March 25.—“Lately died here, James Simpson, glover, aged 97, the oldest man in the town. He had three several times entered the holy state of matrimony, but died a widower. He was a canny, tidy, old man, and took good thought for the morrow. At a distant period he obtained the lease of a small house during the joint lives of himself and his wife, Kate. In his subsequent matrimonial connections he took care to make the most of his bargain, and successively married a second and a third Kate.”

April 15.—An article, two columns long, appears on the subject of Burgh Reform. The points in the Lord Advocate’s Bill (see introduction) are carefully discussed.

April 22.—On the 14th inst. Lord Reston arrived at Inverness “during terrible weather” to hold the Circuit Court. A number of cases were tried, chiefly connected with smuggling and sheep-stealing. “With regard to the former, he was satisfied that much had already been done to suppress a practice so pernicious to the morals and habits of the people, but much still remained to be done, and the learned Judge strongly recommended that proprietors should declare smuggling to be an irritancy in the leases to be granted by them as one of the most effectual preventives of the crime.”

April 29.—“Died, at Glendoich, in the neighbourhood of Perth, on Friday, Lord Reston. His lordship was on his way from this place to Perth to open the Circuit. Those who lately saw him in this town, in the full vigour of his mind and in apparently high health, cannot be otherwise than deeply affected by this afflictive event. Lord Reston was esteemed a good lawyer and an excellent judge. His judgments were all characterised by much tenderness to the criminal and an evident leaning to the side of mercy.”

Ibid.—A chapel “in the Independent or Congregational connection,” capable of seating about 500 persons, and built for the accommodation of Mr Dewar and his people, was opened at Avoch on April 21st. Mr Spence, of Inverness, preached in the morning, and Mr Dewar, of Nairn, in the evening. The building was opened free of debt.

May 13.—A good deal of interest was at this time taken in the construction of velocipedes, concerning which paragraphs circulate from various parts of the country. The following notice appears on 13th May:—“A machine of this kind has been constructed by William Macdonald,



cartwright, here, under the direction of Mr Smith, the finishing writing master, with which that gentleman makes daily excursions in the neighbourhood of the town. It appears to answer the desired purpose very well, and is every day more easily managed by its rider, who now travels with great velocity."

June 3.—At the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland a petition was heard from Mr John Anderson, minister of Bellie, appealing against sentences of the Synod of Moray and Presbytery of Strathbogie, prohibiting him from acting in the capacity of factor, and confining him to the exercise of his clerical functions. The Assembly sustained the appeal in respect of certain irregularities of procedure, but declared it impossible that they should not highly disapprove of ministers of the Church engaging in such secular pursuits as might be inconsistent with the discharge of their spiritual functions, and recommended the Presbytery of Strathbogie to see that these pastoral duties were fully performed in the parish of Bellie, and in all other parishes within their bounds.

June 17.—"The state of the Wool Market in England is so fluctuating at present that both the wool-growers and purchasers who came North to attend the sales here have hung off, and it is only this morning that business was done in earnest. The price is 20s 6d the double stone for wool of the blackfaced sheep. No sales of Cheviot wool have been made in Inverness, but at Fort-William two parcels were sold at 21s and 22s per single stone." Cheviot lambs were quoted 10s 6d to 12s; three-year-old Cheviot widders, 25s to 27s 6d; cast Cheviot ewes, 15s to 17s 6d; blackfaced lambs, 8s to 9s; ditto widders, 22s to 24s; cast ewes, 12s to 15s. At a meeting of wool-growers it was agreed to request members of Parliament to give their support to a bill then pending for the protection of the British wool-grower.

June 24.—A girl, eight years of age, was suddenly killed by the falling of the flag-staff on the Castle Hill.

Ibid.—"It is with much pleasure we notice that the handsome Pump-Room erected at this celebrated spring [the Strathpeffer Mineral Well] by Mrs Hay Mackenzie, of Cromarty, has been recently opened for the accommodation of the ladies and gentlemen attending there. A respectable servant man is in attendance, who conducts the business of the place with much decorum. The reputation of this Spa is yearly increasing, and nothing is now wanting to render the delightful valley of Strathpeffer a

- place of fashionable and beneficial resort but a few neat cottages to accommodate invalids, and a hotel or boarding-house, which would perhaps better answer the purpose of fashionable visitors."
- July 1.—"Died, at Dornoch, on the 31st May, John Law, Esq., Sheriff-Substitute of the county of Sutherland. As a husband and a parent he was most affectionate; as a judge he was upright and impartial; and as a member of society he possessed those amiable qualities which command esteem."
- Ibid.—Meetings of operatives in the large towns of England were agitating for reform and for the redress of grievances.
- July 8.—The Highland Society of London voted one hundred guineas in aid of the Society for the Education of the Poor in the Highlands, and private subscriptions in London produced a further sum of £108.
- Ibid.—On the 18th ult., the foundation stone of a new parish church at Rosemarkie was laid. The Heritors and Magistrates met in the Town Hall of Fortrose and walked in procession to the site. The Rev. Alexander Wood, minister of the parish, delivered an address, and Mr Mackenzie of Flowerburn, the principal heritor, deposited papers and coins in the foundation stone.
- Ibid.—"Died here, on the 2nd curt., in his 67th year, universally regretted, Mr James Wills, who had been one of the teachers to the Inverness Academy since its institution. The life of Mr Wills was wholly devoted to the faithful and zealous discharge of his professional duties; and his exertions as a teacher were rewarded by the veneration and grateful affection of his pupils, in every quarter of the globe, and by the general esteem of his fellow-citizens."
- July 15.—The first monthly corn market was held at Inverness on the previous Tuesday.
- Ibid.—The new mail coach to run between Inverness and Thurso started this morning. It was timed to leave Inverness at 6 a.m., arriving at Wick at half-past seven the following morning, and at Thurso at half-past eleven.—"An elegant new mail coach, built on the patent principle, and drawn by four horses, now runs between the town and Aberdeen, and leaving that city at the usual hour of despatching the North Mail, reaches Inverness so early as eleven at night. The Thurso mail departs in the morning, and passengers to the northward are thus permitted to enjoy a few hours of repose before setting forward."
- Ibid.—Died, at Milnfield, on the 9th curt., Ann, wife of Mr Macdonell, writer, Inverness. A tri-

bute is paid to her upright, intelligent, and genial character.

*Ibid.*—"In the last report of the Gaelic School Society, we have the following account of the deplorable state of ignorance of the Highlands of Scotland: ...Out of a population of 22,501 (belonging to a few parishes of which returns had been made), 19,367 are incapable of reading either English or Gaelic. Connected with this melancholy fact it must be observed that the proportion who are able to read reside in or near a district where a school is taught; but in the remote glens, or subordinate islands of almost every parish, few or none can be found who know even the letters."

July 22.—Lord Archibald Hamilton laid before the House of Commons a report from the Select Committee on Scottish Royal Burghs. After a keen contest it was ordered to be printed.—A petition from Inverness praying for reform was presented to the House of Commons by Sir James Mackintosh.

*Ibid.*—Died, at the Manse of Duthil, on 1st July, the Rev. John Grant, in the 77th year of his age. "Mr Grant filled the situation of minister in various parishes for about 50 years, and discharged the parochial duties with such kindness and attention as to attract the universal esteem of his parishioners. He possessed all the hospitality of the Highlander, tempered with the moderation and mingled with the benevolence of the Christian, and he was ever the friend of the poor and their ready shield against oppression. He had a capacious and original mind, cultivated to the highest degree by study, and was one of the most profound classical scholars of the present day. He delighted in the Greek and Latin authors, who were his constant and familiar companions; and as he possessed a most retentive memory, the conversation was enriched and adorned by frequent ready quotations and happy allusions, illustrative of any subject under discussion. He was a great enthusiast in the Gaelic language, with which he was perfectly conversant. He was passionately fond of music, especially of Highland airs and Gaelic songs, and felt peculiar interest in the traditional tales, the deeds of arms, the feats of strength and activity of the heroes of feudal times. Being himself a poet, he had a very delicate and nicely discriminating taste in poetry as well as in general criticism, and his mind was deeply stored with every species of literary acquirement. As a genealogist he had no superior, his knowledge in that particular extending not only to the history of

families of his own and neighbouring counties, but to that of families dispersed all over the kingdom. This served to give an interest and historical truth and body to his anecdote that rendered his company peculiarly agreeable and instructive. His wit, which was caustic and original, frequently expanded into a broad and good-natured humour that carried balm along with it, and spread cheerfulness around him, so that those against whom his shafts were thrown joined in the hilarity they produced."

July 29.—This issue contains numerous extracts from other papers describing or discussing the removal of people in the inland districts of Sutherland to villages on the seashore. A statement which seems to have been official appeared in the "Times," beginning as follows:—"In 1817, a year of great distress in the Highlands, Lord Stafford extended his relief to the poorer tenants on the estate of Sutherland to the amount of £10,000. This distress was much increased by the numbers of people who had settled on the estate without permission, 1500 of them paying rent to no person; and many more of them holding entirely of the inferior tacksmen. The extreme misery endured by these poor people (a state of things occurring every three years on the average), the great improvement among those who had been settled on the coast, and the rapid extension of the fisheries, pointed out the necessity of delaying no longer the removal of the remainder of the people who still dwell on the hills to the seacoast—a measure as necessary for them as beneficial to the estate, and advantageous to the country." Removals from Kildonan appear to have been the chief cause of the correspondence and discussion at this time.

Ibid.—An officer of a Revenue cruiser, under an order from the Sheriff-Substitute of Orkney, examined the condition of an emigrant vessel from Cromarty lying near Stromness and bound for Pictou, in Nova Scotia. The vessel carried 87 passengers, and the officer found a large quantity of its provisions unfit for use. He reports with indignation on the state of the vessel.

Ibid.—Mention is made again of the mail diligence which commenced running on the 15th inst. between Inverness and Thurso, "thus completing the mail coach conveyance from Falmouth to London, and from London to the Northern Ocean. This great advantage to the remote district through which it runs has been secured within a twelvemonth after there were roads made fit to convey it, and is in a great

measure owing to the exertions of the Marquis of Stafford." A paragraph in a later issue says that the journey was now made "in the short space of three days and three hours."

August 5.—A report on the Burgh Jails of Scotland gives an account of the state of the prison in Tain. The following is the opening paragraph:—"The Magistrates have but too much reason to say that the jail at Tain is not sufficient either for the accommodation or secure custody of any prisoner, civil or criminal. There is hardly a criminal confined in it who has much difficulty in making his escape; for the walls are now so old that, though of considerable thickness, they are easily gone through with a common chisel, the stones easily giving way and reduced to sand; and such has been the situation of the Magistrates, and such would be their situation now, were a criminal lodged for any atrocious crime, that, contrary to the laws of Scotland, they would be obliged instantly to put that criminal in irons, otherwise they might lay their account with an escape in forty-eight hours." The Magistrates, it is stated, had during the last 20 years lost about £150 through cases arising from the escape of prisoners confined for debt.

Ibid.—"Died here, on the 26th ult., in the 76th year of his age, the 50th of his ministry, and the 32nd of his Episcopate, the Right Rev. Andrew Macfarlane, Senior Bishop of the Scots Episcopal Church."

August 26.—Account of the dispersion of the Reform meeting near Manchester, known as the Peterloo Massacre. Five persons lost their lives, and about a hundred were injured. From this time forward there are frequent paragraphs and articles about the agitation in England and the south of Scotland, chiefly Glasgow. The presence and activity of spies are condemned.

Ibid.—Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg, the husband of the late Princess Charlotte, and afterwards King of the Belgians, at this time visited the North. He was entertained at Dalwhinnie and Kinrara by the Marquis and Marchioness of Huntly, and ascended to the summit of Tor Alvie, where he was met by almost all the country gentlemen of the district, by several of their ladies, and between five and six hundred people, mostly dressed in Highland garb. "At the first appearance of his Royal Highness, the Marquis of Huntly's piper commenced playing, and the people starting suddenly from behind the Waterloo Monument, formed a circle round the Prince, who affably spoke to every one who came within speaking distance, drank to their health, and

took snuff from those who presented their snuff horns. The Marquis of Huntly provided an entertainment suitable to the occasion, consisting of two deer, an immense quantity of beef and mutton, one hundred quarter loaves of bread, several ankers of strong whisky, some ankers of beer, and a large hogshead of cold punch." The scene on the summit seems to have been intended to realise the description in the *Lady of the Lake*, when the clansmen sprang from the hillside at the signal of Roderick Dhu. When at Dalwhinnie the Prince attended service in Laggan Parish Church. The Marquis of Huntly gave £20 to the minister of Alvie to be distributed among the poor.

*Ibid.*—From the report of the Northern Infirmary it appears that for the year 1818, 21 persons classed as "maniacs" were admitted for treatment.

September 2.—On the 30th August Prince Leopold left Kinrara, and after lunching at Moyhall, arrived at Inverness. He was met outside the town by some of the county gentlemen, who formed an escort, and at the Hotel he was received by the Magistrates. Next day he drove to Loch-Ness, lunched at Dochfour, and in the evening was entertained by the Magistrates and a distinguished company to dinner in the Northern Meeting Rooms. Provost Robertson was highly praised for the arrangements made in connection with the visit. On Thursday (2nd) the Prince was to leave for Fort-George, and proceed afterwards to Gordon Castle.

*Ibid.*—The Northern Missionary Society held its twentieth anniversary at Tain, when the Rev. Donald Fraser of Kirkhill, and the Rev. John Kennedy of Killearnan preached. The collection at the church door amounted to £32 9s 8d, and the subscriptions of members and donations to £94 12s 10d, making a total of £127 2s 6d, being the highest sum ever collected by the Society at one meeting. A considerable part of it was contributed by prayer meetings and penny-a-week associations. The Society voted £150 to the Edinburgh Missionary Society, and £50 to the Society in Bengal (Serampore Mission) for translation of the Scriptures. Seventy new members were added to the list of contributors.

September 9.—On the previous Thursday, after visiting Fort-George, Prince Leopold passed through Nairn and Forres, where he was received with fitting distinction. At Forres he received the freedom of the burgh. He was entertained at Grant Lodge, Elgin, and arrived at Gordon Castle in the evening. On Saturday he returned with the Marquis of Huntly to Kin-

rara, breakfasting at Arndilly and lunching at Ballindalloch. "He was received," says the report, "in this country with a Highland welcome, he has shared our hospitality with cheerfulness and kindness, and from his engaging manners he has departed with our love and esteem." The Prince gave £100 to the funds of the Society for the Education of the Poor in the Highlands, and £20 to the poor of the parish of Alvie.

Ibid.—Mr Telford, the engineer, and his friend Southey, the poet, were in Inverness the previous week, on a visit to the Highlands.

Ibid.—"The smack *George*, which sailed from London on Thursday, the 2nd inst., arrived at Findhorn on Tuesday, the 7th."

September 16.—"The inhabitants of the town will be glad to learn that the repair of the road from Church Street to the Shore, so long in contemplation, has been contracted for, and will be commenced immediately. There will be a foot-path of considerable width along its whole extent."

Ibid.—"Died, on the 19th of March last, Lieut.-Colonel Fraser, of the Royal Scots. This gallant officer was killed while rallying the advanced party of our troops before Asserghur, upon whom a desperate and unexpected attack had been made by a sally from the fortress. His loss is deeply regretted by his companions in arms throughout India, where he has served with distinguished reputation for many years."

Ibid.—"At Hull, on the 22nd ult., aged 84, Roderick Macleod, of the 15th Regiment of Foot, who fought at the Siege of Quebec, under the gallant General Wolfe, and was in various other engagements. About eighteen years ago this veteran had a grave-stone put down in the Trinity Church new burying-ground, in the place where he intended to be interred, bearing this inscription—"This is the burying-place of an old soldier who has served four Princes: the first was the last and the last was the best."

September 23.—It is stated that the plumbago mine in Glenstrathfarar was affording employment to a considerable number of persons. Large quantities of the mineral were sent to London by the smacks for sale.

Ibid.—"Married in the Parish Church of Trentham, in the county of Stafford, on Thursday the 16th curt., by his Grace the Lord Archbishop of York, the Right Hon. Lord Viscount Belgrave, eldest son of the Earl Grosvenor, to the Right Hon. Lady Elizabeth Mary Leveson Gower, younger daughter of the most noble the Marquis of Stafford."

Ibid.—“At her house, Crown, Inverness, on the 3rd inst., in the 78th year of her age, Jane, relict of the Hon. Archibald Fraser of Lovat, and sister of the late Sir William Fraser, Bart.”

Ibid.—A proposal is on foot to run a coach between Inverness and Fort-William, with a possible connection to Skye. A meeting to support the scheme was held at Fort-Augustus, and £500 was subscribed to further the project, Glengarry giving £100.

September 30.—Beginning of historical and miscellaneous notices of Inverness, “to be continued occasionally.” They were no doubt contributed by Mr James Suter.

Ibid.—“Died, at Gravesend, on his passage from London to Inverness on the 24th inst., Mr William Ettles, bookseller, of this place.”

October 7.—At the Michaelmas Head Court, on the roll of freeholders being made up, Colonel A. Macdonell of Glengarry rose and read a protest against the designation of Ranald George Macdonald, Esq. of Clanranald, on the ground that that gentleman had no lauds or charters that entitled him to be designated of Clanranald—his true and legitimate title being of Moidart, or Captain of Clanranald. “To prove this averment, Glengarry entered into a detail of the genealogical history of the Family of Moidart, explained the etymology of the word Clan, and concluded (with an accompaniment of some animated remarks) that he would consider it personal to himself if any gentleman should henceforward mention Mr Macdonald otherwise than as Captain of Clanranald. Mr Mackenzie of Woodside having, on behalf of his client, answered the gentleman’s objection, and some observations having been made thereon by several other members, it was rejected as incompetent to be entertained by the meeting. Glengarry here intimated that he would bring the question before the Court of Session, and thence, if necessary, to the House of Peers.”

Ibid.—The birth of an heir to Clanranald was celebrated with great rejoicing in the Long Island.

Ibid.—The imprint to the “Courier” now bears that it is “printed and published by John Johnstone.”

October 14 and 21.—At the Northern Meeting this year Lord Saltoun presided. There was a long discussion on questions relating to the Secretary, but he was unanimously re-appointed. The ball-room, it is stated, had received a new and most appropriate ornament in a finely-executed, full-length painting of the Marchioness of Huntly.



October 21.—Died, at London, on 1st October, Benjamin Ross, banker, Tain. His death is spoken of with marked regret. It is said that "by no similar dispensation, since the lamented death of Sir Charles Ross of Balnagown, has such a general gloom been cast over the Easter parts of Ross and Sutherlandshires."

Ibid.—A full account is given of the blacklead mine of Glenstrathfarar. "The mine was discovered in the year 1816, and the proprietor, Fraser of Lovat, immediately determined on its being mined. The working is carried on by ten or twelve men, and is entirely at the day, the miners not having sunk more than a few yards from the surface. The quantity hitherto raised has been inconsiderable: last year, for instance, the quantity sent to London did not exceed five tons. This was sold at the rate of £93 per ton, thus affording a great profit to the proprietor, as the average expense of mining and transport did not exceed £17 a ton."

October 28.—In consequence of the agitation and disaffection in the country, the Cabinet proposed to raise an additional force of 11,600 men. They dismissed Earl Fitzwilliam from the office of Lord-Lieutenant of the West Riding of York for countenancing a meeting which demanded inquiry into the conflict at Manchester.

Ibid.—An Inverness Juvenile Bible Society was formed. Seven hundred young persons enrolled themselves.

Ibid.—An account is given of the journey of Mr James B. Fraser of Reelig to the sources of the Jumna and the Ganges. This journey was undertaken in 1815. The account is made up from Mr Fraser's journal, and communicated by Mr Fraser-Tytler.

November 18.—A meeting of the county of Ross adopted a loyal address to the Prince Regent, and condemned "the alarming progress of insubordination and studied contempt of the law and its administration in many parts of the United Kingdom." Mr Mackenzie of Seaforth wrote disapproving of the meeting as being in his opinion unnecessary, and tending to create mischief and alarm.

Ibid.—A project was on foot to establish religious libraries in the Highlands.

November 25.—County meetings in Inverness, Nairn, Cromarty, and Sutherland adopted loyal addresses to the Prince Regent.

December 2.—A list of places is given, in which the Society for the Education of the Poor have established gratis schools. Six "aid" schools were also established in the parish of Moy, under circumstances explained as follows:—

"These stations are in the parish of Moy, Inverness-shire, which runs for 15 miles along the river Findhorn, besides several lateral glens; in all of them the people have been in the habit of employing teachers whom, for want of means, they could only keep for a part of the year. With the aid of the Society, which in money will not amount to more than £13 sterling, or 2s per annum per scholar, for the whole six schools, the people hope to be able to employ the teachers all the year, and to carry on the education of their children with more effect than heretofore."

*Ibid.*—An affray occurred near Banff between smugglers and a party of Excisemen, aided by a detachment of soldiers. The soldiers fired, and one of the smugglers was wounded, it was feared mortally.

December 9.—"Died, after a short illness, in the Cantonment at Dhapoolu, near Severndroog, in the East Indies, Lieutenant and Adjutant William Macdonell, of the 1st Battalion 10th Native Infantry and son to Coll. Macdonell, Esq. of Barrisdale. His brother-officers of the regiment have, in token of their very great esteem and sincere regard for him, built a splendid monument to his memory, on the spot where he lies interred."

December 16.—"Mr John Anderson, minister of Bellie, and Commissioner to the Duke of Gordon, has tendered to the Presbytery of Strathbogie the former of these offices—which was accepted of, and intimation thereof appointed to be made from the pulpit of Bellie."

December 30.—Lord Archibald Hamilton's motion for the renewal of the Committee on the Scottish Burghs was approved of by the House of Commons.

## No. XV.

George III. died 29th January 1820, in the 82nd year of his age and the 60th of his reign. He had been mentally incapacitated for more than nine years, and was blind for some years before his death. The Prince Regent now ascended the throne as George IV. The first year of the new reign was greatly troubled. A plot was discovered for the assassination of Ministers, devised by a man named Thistlewood, who was apprehended with his companions on February 22nd as they were arming themselves in a hayloft in Cato Street, off the Edgware Road. The ringleaders were tried and executed. About the same time Glasgow and the neighbouring towns were disturbed by a threatened rising. Queen Caroline, who had been living abroad, returned home on the accession of her husband, arriving in London on the 6th of June. Negotiations had been in progress to induce her to remain on the Continent, but the order to omit her name from the Liturgy excited her indignation and prompted her return.

In June of this year the first steamboat was placed on the Canal, to run between Inverness and Fort-Augustus. From Fort-Augustus to Fort-William communication was established once a week by coach.

During the second half of 1820, the nation was deeply moved by the trial of the Queen. The Government had appointed a Secret Committee, which reported on the 4th July that the charges against her Majesty affected not only the honour of the Queen, but also the dignity of the Crown, and the moral feeling and honour of the country. In the opinion of the Committee, it was indispensable that the charges should become the subject of a solemn inquiry, and they recommended that the investigation should take the form of legislative proceedings. On the 5th, Lord Liverpool introduced a measure in the House of Lords to deprive the Queen of her rights and privileges as Consort, and to dissolve the marriage between herself and the King. The bill was immediately read a first time, and a protracted inquiry followed. "To the great scandal of the whole nation," says Ransome, in his his-

torical summary, "a series of Italian witnesses were publicly examined as to the minutest details of the Queen's life. This evidence was printed in the newspapers, and became the daily talk of all classes. As evidence, however, on which to found a divorce, it was quite inconclusive, and was unmercifully discredited under the cross-examination of Brougham and Denman, who conducted the case for the Queen. The second reading of the bill was only passed by 28; the third reading by only 9. In these circumstances Ministers saw that there was not the remotest chance of the bill passing the House of Commons, and it was accordingly abandoned. While it was possible that the bill might pass, the feeling of the nation had been strongly in the Queen's favour; but a reaction now took place. The evidence, though inconclusive, was most discreditable to her fair fame, and the number of her supporters rapidly diminished." This passage fully represents the facts as exhibited in the newspaper columns of the day. At Inverness there was a partial illumination on receipt of the news of the abandonment of the bill.

A step in advance was taken this year by the formation in the town of what was called a Sacred Music Institution. Towards the end of the year a steamer made the first voyage to Kyleakin.

*From the "Inverness Courier."*

1820.

January 6.—"The North Mail Coach has been prevented for some time back from proceeding further than Tain owing to the deep fall of snow. The road between Tain and Thurso is in some places covered with snow to the depth of from 6 to 15 feet. The mail is carried forward on horseback, with great difficulty, and the hours of arrival are quite uncertain. The snow is also so deep between Aberdeen and Fochabers that the South Mail Coach, which used to reach Inverness about eleven at night, has not arrived for some days until seven in the morning."—It is stated that at Inverness on the 4th and 5th inst. 295 barrels of coal were distributed from the Poor's Coal Fund to 723 poor persons residing within the town; also that on New-Year's Day Provost Robertson ordered 150

- loaves of bread to be distributed among the poor people connected with the Soup Kitchen.
- Ibid.—The following curious notice is addressed to a correspondent:—"We are extremely sorry that we cannot insert the communication from Ross-shire, as every article bearing a real signature that appears in a newspaper is charged by the Stamp Office as an advertisement."
- Ibid.—An article referring, among other subjects, to burgh reform, throws some light on the conditions of the question. The writer, after expressing approval of the "prudent and cautious extension of the elective franchise," says—"We have not been clamorous for the revival (if, indeed, they ever existed) of those silly and narrow laws and obsolete privileges, the benefit of which is claimed by ancient crafts and corporations, to the manifest exclusion of all the property, talent, and respectability existing in modern times, under the denominations of lawyers, physicians, clergymen, teachers, men of letters, artists, printers, annuitants, &c., because we have no motive in representing the interests of miserable local factions as the interests of the community." The writer implies that the "set" or constitution of any burgh was at best of a restricted kind, and excluded many of the most intelligent classes from the administration of municipal affairs.
- January 13.—A record of the number and tonnage of vessels entered at the Custom House of Inverness for the year ending January 5th, 1820, shows an increase on the previous year of 259 vessels and 15,498 tons. The statement comprehends "all the minor ports within the limits of the Inverness Custom House," but even so there was room for congratulation on the rapid progress of the shipping trade.
- January 27.—Complaint is made that a recent change in the malt duty was unfavourable to the agricultural interests of Scotland generally and of the Northern districts in particular. "We are glad to understand, on the authority of a letter from the Convener of Ross-shire, that the member for that county, before the adjournment of Parliament, had an interview with the Chancellor of the Exchequer for the purpose of pointing out the extreme injustice and impolicy of a measure which imposes a higher malt duty on Scotland than was paid during the war; and which must compel all the distillers in the Northern Counties to abandon their works, and thus operate as a direct encouragement to smuggling."
- Ibid.—"At Moness House, on the 13th curt., James Robertson, Esq., late of Killichangie, aged 96. He outlived all his own family (the male part

of which honourably bled and died in the service of their country), and also all the companions of his youth. We have frequently observed the death of 'the last' of Prince Charles Edward's followers announced, and now venture to assert, without fear of contradiction, that this is the last of the officers who fought under him at the battle of Culloden in 1746. He commanded a company of the Athole Highlanders upon that memorable day; and being perfectly collected in his senses to the last moments, his enthusiastic accounts of the deeds of other years were truly interesting."

Ibid.—"Died, at Grant's Braes, near Haddington, on the 14th inst., Agnes Brown, the mother of Burns the Poet, in the 88th year of her age."

February 3.—"Died, at Moyhall, on Thursday the 20th ult., Sir Æneas Mackintosh, Bart., Chief of the Clan Mackintosh, who was justly endeared to his numerous friends, relatives, and dependents, by singular uprightness of mind and amenity of disposition. Sir Æneas makes the fourth great Clan Chief whom this part of the country has lost within the last few years—Seaforth, the Chief of the Mackenzies; Lovat, the Chief of the Frasers; The Chisholm; and Sir Æneas Mackintosh, having all died within a short period of each other." A paragraph in the same issue states that the remains of the deceased Chief were interred in Petty on New-Year's Day, the funeral procession being a very imposing spectacle.

Ibid.—"On the 21st ult., at the Manse of Abernethy, the Rev. John Grant, minister of that parish, in the 81st year of his age. Early in life Mr Grant was presented to the living of Arrocher, in Dumbartonshire, whence he was in 1765 translated to Abernethy. In the latter parish he discharged the duties of his station with exemplary fidelity for the unusual period of 55 years. Happy in the attachment of his family, and in the respect and esteem of his neighbours, his time and attention were devoted with unwearied zeal to the spiritual and temporal interests of his parishioners, by whom the memory of his good offices and paternal care and solicitude will long be cherished with feelings of gratitude and veneration."

Ibid.—A list of premiums is given, awarded by the Highland Society of Scotland to farmers in Nairnshire, Caithness, Skye, and other districts, for improvements in land and stock.

February 10.—The death is announced of King George Third, in the 82nd year of his age and the sixtieth of his reign. The same issue contains an announcement of the proclamation of

George Fourth at the Exchange of Inverness, "with due solemnity." A salute was fired by a party of the Inverness Local Militia who attended, and patriotic and national airs were played by the band.

*Ibid.*—An advertisement announces that the Caledonian Coach, beginning on 1st March, would be run thrice every week, instead of twice as formerly, "betwixt Inverness and Perth, across the Grampian Mountains." In compliance with a wish very generally expressed, it was to be run in one day between these places. "To attain this end, the innkeepers on the road have become contractors, and the horses will be changed at every stage. The days for starting from Inverness will be every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday; and from Perth every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday of each week. The coach will be despatched from both places at 5 o'clock in the morning; and will, from calculations made, after allowing ample time for breakfast and dinner, at suitable stations, reach its destination by ten o'clock at night at farthest."

February 17.—A proposal was at this time on foot for establishing a musical society in Inverness, to be called the Sacred Music Institution. The promoters were in correspondence with Mr George Thomson, the friend of Burns, with the view of securing a teacher.

March 2.—This number contains an account of the conspiracy of Thistlewood and others (known as the Cato Street Conspiracy) for the assassination of his Majesty's Ministers. "The traitors were actually met, in a loft they had hired as a rendezvous, and were completely armed and ready to commence the butchery, when they were surprised by the peace-officers and a party of the Coldstream Guards."

*Ibid.*—The exclusion of the Queen's name from the Liturgy, recorded in this issue, was the beginning of the bitter struggle over the claims and character of the Consort of King George IV.

March 9.—Parliament was dissolved on the 1st inst., and a new Parliament called for the 21st of April.

*Ibid.*—A riot occurred on the estate of Culcairn through an attempt to remove the tenantry. A force, consisting of twenty-five men of the Ross-shire Militia and forty constables, was compelled to heat a retreat by a body of three or four hundred people, chiefly women, posted behind a stone dyke, "who rushed out upon the soldiers with a hideous yell and attacked them with sticks, stones, and other missiles." The

- Sheriff of the County, who accompanied the party, suffered some injury, and had the panels of his carriage broken. A few shots were, without orders, fired by the soldiers in self-defence, and two or three women were severely wounded.
- Ibid.**—"Married, on the 1st March, Lieut.-Colonel Colquhoun Grant, Forres, to Miss Margaret Brodie, second daughter of James Brodie of Brodie, Esq."
- Ibid.**—"At Ardfreck, in the Isle of Skye, on the 2nd ult., Mrs Macleod, Dowager of Talisker, at the advanced age of 91. This excellent and accomplished lady had passed the earlier years of her life in the politest circles of society in Europe. On the Colonel's death, in the year 1789, she retired to her jointure house, where she passed her disconsolate widowhood, an eminent example of female worth and dignity to her sex, in the duties of fervent Christian devotion and extensive charity."
- March 16.**—In course of the General Election now in progress, there was a keen struggle between the Fife and Seafield interests in Elgin. Two of the Councillors in Colonel Grant's interest were picked up and carried off to the coast of Sutherland. A day or two afterwards a force of tenantry from the Grant estates in Strathspey assembled and marched to Grant Lodge at Elgin. A short account of this, the last Highland Raid on record, is given in this issue. Full particulars appeared in our columns some years ago, written by the late Bailie Stuart. The paper was republished in the 21st Volume of the Transactions of the Gaelic Society.
- Ibid.**—"We state with deep regret the death of Sir Alexander Mackenzie of Avoch, who on Saturday last suddenly expired at Mullinearn, on his way to the North to attend the Ross-shire election." Sir Alexander was sixty-five years of age, having been born in 1755. He discovered and explored the Mackenzie River in the North-West of America, and was the first white man to cross the Rocky Mountains and reach the Pacific Coast.
- Ibid.**—"Died, at the Manse of Tain, on the 3rd ult., Mrs Margaret Brodie, widow of the late Rev. Charles Calder, minister of Urquhart." A long paragraph speaks very highly of this lady's character and accomplishments.—"At Sharrow Head, near Sheffield, on the 7th inst., Major-General Patrick Mackenzie, colonel of the 3rd Royal Veteran Battalion, after 42 years' active employment in the service of his country."
- Ibid.**—It is stated that Colonel Baillie of Leys had been returned as one of the representatives of the burgh of Hedon.



March 23.—An important meeting at Dornoch complained of an Act passed for the encouragement and improvement of the Irish fisheries. This Act granted higher bounties to the Irish fish-curers, and privileges not enjoyed by their British competitors; and as a consequence the latter could not compete in the market with the Irish fish-curer. It was stated at the meeting that “in several parts of the North of Scotland, and particularly in the county of Sutherland, the prosecution of the herring and white fisheries is of recent date”; that in Sutherland the industry had been fostered by the patronage of the Marquis of Stafford, and gave employment to a numerous population.

*Ibid.*—Mr Thomas Mackenzie, yr. of Applecross, was re-elected member for Ross-shire without opposition. His election was proposed by Mr Macleod of Cadboll, and seconded by Sir Hector Mackenzie of Gairloch.

*Ibid.*—Rev. Alexr. Macbean, minister of Kincardine, writes on the subject of the Culrain riots. He strongly disapproves of the removal of the tenantry, but announces that they had accepted the writs served on them by the Sheriff Officer.

*Ibid.*—The contest at Elgin, with kidnapping of voters and incursion from Strathspey, recalls the following anecdote:—“Seventy years since the proprietor of Kinsteary was opposed to the Laird of Grant as a candidate for representing the county of Inverness. The men of Strathspey, indignant that any Lowlander should presume to compete with their Chief, came in detached parties to the neighbourhood of Inverness, pretending to have lost a great number of cattle. Ten chosen scouts watched every movement of their destined prey, and, seizing a favourable moment, one threw a plaid over Kinsteary’s head and the others hoodwinked his companions in the same manner. The candidate for the county was detained among the hills until the Laird of Grant was returned for the county, and several years passed before that Chief was informed what individuals made the bold effort to insure his election.”

March 30.—On the 23rd, Mr Macpherson-Grant of Ballindalloch was elected M. P. for the county of Sutherland. On the same day Colonel Francis William Grant of Grant was elected member for the county of Moray.

April 6 and 13.—The Right Hon. Charles Grant was unanimously re-elected member of Parliament for the county of Inverness. The nomination was made by Glengarry and seconded by Glenmoriston. Mr Grant delivered a speech,

which is reported at considerable length, and in the evening entertained a large party to dinner in the Northern Meeting Rooms. A few evenings thereafter he gave a supper and ball to the young people.—Mr George Cumming, London, was re-elected member for the Inverness District of Burghs, the election taking place at Forres.—The Hon. George Pryce Campbell, captain, R.N., second son of Lord Cawdor, was elected member for the county of Nairn.—Sir Hugh Innes of Lochalsh was re-elected for the Northern Burghs.—Mr Archibald Farquharson of Finzean was elected for the Elgin District of Burghs by the casting vote of the delegate for Cullen, the presiding burgh, General Duff being the defeated candidate. In this case no commissioned delegate appeared for Elgin, but competing minutes of Council were read in favour of two nominees, each appointed to vote for the rival candidate; but both votes were rejected.—The Earl of Fife was re-elected member for Banffshire.

April 13.—This issue gives an account of proceedings in Glasgow and Paisley in connection with a general strike of workmen and a threatened rising. Disturbances also occurred at Greenock.

Ibid.—An epidemic of influenza is reported in Inverness, the illness being attended by headache, sore throat and other disagreeable symptoms.

May 4.—This issue contains a report of the trial of Thistlewood and his companions. Five were sentenced to death.

Ibid.—A vacancy in the situation of Latin teacher in the Inverness Academy was filled by the appointment of Mr Carmichael from the School of Crieff. "The filling up of this vacancy," says the report, "is known to have excited a very deep interest in this part of the country. We formerly mentioned that the contest had added £1000 to the funds and 20 names to the list of directors; but before the day was done the money and the names were more than doubled." This is an indication of the strife of local parties in those days in the burgh.

May 11.—The Treasurer of the Inverness Auxiliary of the Bible Society reported receipt of sums from town and county amounting to £248 7s.

Ibid.—"Died, at Garguston of Redcastle, on the 28th ult., Alexander Macfarquhar, alias Roy (one of the oldest men in this part of the country) at the advanced age of 103 years; he was one of those whose attachment to the unfortunate and Royal Family of Stewart led him in 1746 to support their cause at the battle of Culloden."

May 18.—At Milnfield, on the 7th curt., Mr Alexander Macdonell, who for 37 years practised as a writer in Inverness.

May 25.—The death is recorded on the 12th inst., in the 70th year of his age, of the Rev. Isaac Ketchen, for upwards of 40 years minister of the Secession Congregation at Nairn. "No minister could be better entitled to the character of father and friend of his people, or more beloved by them and respected by all classes of the community in the town and neighbourhood. The circumstances of his death were remarkably solemn and impressive. He had preached on Sabbath with great animation and effect, on Matthew, 25th chapter, 13th verse: 'Watch, therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour when the Son of Man cometh'—rose in his usual health on Friday morning—had come from his closet (after praying for the last time to his Father who seeth in secret) to the breakfast room, where the family were assembled for social worship, and had the Psalm-book in hand to begin, when he leaned his head on the table, and without a groan breathed his spirit into the hands of his Father and his God."

June 15.—The return of the Queen to England is chronicled, and the excitement which her claims created. The sympathy of the people was in her favour.

Ibid.—The annual meeting of the Northern Missionary Society was held on the 14th at Inverness. Collections were intimated amounting to £93 19s 6d.

June 22.—The annual Sheep and Wool Market began on the 20th. Little business was done in sheep, but wool sold at prices rather higher than were expected. Common wool per double stone from 18s to 20s; Cheviot wool per single stone from 20s to 22s; Cheviot sheep from 20s to 25s; blackfaced sheep from 20s to 23s; Cheviot lambs from 10s to 11s; blackfaced lambs from 7s to 8s 6d; croke ewes from 16s to 17s; wedder hoggs from 15s to 16s. At Fort-William Market the previous week no business was directly done in wool, the highest price offered being 16s; but some sales were conditionally made, the prices to be determined by the Inverness Market.

Ibid.—The Rev. Mr Martin, of the Chapel of Ease, Inverness, was presented to the Church of Abernethy, vacant by the death of Mr Grant.

Ibid.—A steamboat, owned by Mr Bell, arrived in the Canal Basin, to ply on Loch-Ness. "It is intended that the steamboat shall go to Fort-Augustus every morning and return to Inverness at night."

- June 24.—“The steamboat has now performed six successful voyages on Loch-Ness and the Caledonian Canal, going off in the morning, and returning from Fort-Augustus every night. Nothing more forcibly shows the rapid improvement of this country, and the enterprising commercial spirit spread abroad among the people than the facility afforded to travellers. Three daily coaches, and one coach on alternate days, now set out from and arrive at Inverness, which very few years back no public vehicle approached; and which within the memory of living men seemed as unapproachable as Stornoway or Lerwick. The former, by the way, is now to be brought home, for we understand that a steamboat is to be established at Stornoway.” In the same issue there is an advertisement of through communication between Inverness and Fort-William. It was announced that a steamboat would ply regularly three times a-week between Inverness and Fort-Augustus; and that every Saturday a two-horse conveyance (or if business would admit one with four horses) and a light waggon would run from Fort-Augustus to Fort-William, returning the following Monday. This was to connect with the steamer Comet plying between Fort-William and Glasgow. The enterprising person who started the conveyance was Mr William Geddes, vintner, Inverness. He also proposed to establish at an early date a conveyance from Invermoriston to Kyle Rhea, on the Sound of Skye. The fare from Inverness to Fort-Augustus was—Cabin, 5s; steerage, 3s 6d; and from Inverness to Fort-William, 12s. “Thus it will be in the power of the tourist to go in handsome style from Inverness to Edinburgh, including boat and coach hires, for the small sum of 54s, and steerage passengers may go the same distance for the very moderate fare of 32s.” As regards the Loch-Ness steamer, it was stated that it was “elegantly and commodiously fitted up.” that refreshments of every description, of the best quality, would be sold on board on reasonable terms; and that books and music would be provided. The vessel sailed from Muirtown Locks every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, and made the return journey from Fort-Augustus every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.
- July 6.—Died, at Inverness, on Sunday, 25th June last, aged 60, Mr Donald Macpherson, many years one of the Magistrates of Inverness.
- July 13.—This issue contains an account of the proceedings of the House of Lords, when the report of the Secret Committee on the Queen’s case was submitted, and Lord Liverpool brought

- in a bill for the dissolution of the Royal marriage and depriving the Queen of her rights and privileges.
- Ibid.—The Sacred Music Institution formed at Inverness advertises classes to be conducted by Mr Huntly. A long letter appears from Mr George Thomson, the correspondent of Burns, on the improvement of psalmody.
- July 27.—A cattle market was held for the first time at Bridge-End of Alness, on the 19th inst. —The Invergordon Horticultural Society held its first meeting for the distribution of premiums "at the village of Invergordon Ness" on the 15th.
- August 3.—On Monday, 31st July, the Rev. Hector Bethune, minister of Alness, was inducted into the church and living of Dingwall, vacant by the translation of the Rev. Dr A. Stewart to the Canongate Church of Edinburgh.
- August 10.—The hotels and lodging-houses in Inverness are reported as very crowded. This was partly due to the facilities afforded by the steamer recently placed on Loch-Ness, with its through connection via Fort-William. It was announced that the steamer was to go down the Moray Firth the following week, "for the purpose of exhibiting her usefulness and stirring up gentlemen of public spirit to establish a boat on the Firth for conveying goods and passengers." On several occasions the vessel had been unable to carry all the goods sent to Muir-town Wharf.
- Ibid.—"The Airs and Melodies Peculiar to the Highlands of Scotland and the Isles, vocally arranged with symphonies and accompaniments for the pianoforte, &c., Vol. I." is announced by the editor, Captain Fraser, as about to be published by subscription. Captain Fraser had before this issued a volume of Highland melodies, which met with much success in his native country. He had, however, sent a large consignment abroad, which had resulted in serious loss, owing, apparently, to the competition of a pirated edition published in America.
- August 17.—A meeting was held and a Committee appointed for the establishment of a subscription library in Inverness.
- August 24.—It is stated that markets had recently been established at Muir of Ord, and promised well. The number of cattle exposed for sale were computed to be from three to four thousand head.
- Ibid.—"Arrived at Bennet's Hotel, John Gladstone, Esq., of Liverpool, M.P., and family."
- August 31.—A large part of this issue is devoted to speeches and evidence at the Queen's trial.

—The Rev. Legh Richmond, of Turvey, in Bedfordshire, visited Inverness to commend a movement for promoting Christianity among the Jews.

September 7.—The Northern Missionary Society held its anniversary meeting at Tain on the 30th ult. Subscriptions and donations were announced to the amount of £122 19s 6d.

Ibid.—“Married, on the 23rd August, at La Columbriere, Jersey, by the Dean of the Island, Major William Mackay, 68th Light Infantry, to Margaret, only child of Captain Robert Mackay of Wedgefield, Inverness.”—“At Hartfield House, on Tuesday, 22nd August, James Macdonald, Esq. of Balranald and younger of Lyncdale, to Miss Jane Mackenzie, third daughter of the deceased Captain Mackenzie of Hartfield. The event was celebrated in the true old style of Highland hospitality, there being upwards of 30 ladies and gentlemen present, who did not separate till the end of the week, but tripping it on the light fantastic toe to the enlivening sounds of Mr Morrison’s excellent band, and sharing in the liberal hospitalities of Hartfield and Applecross House, the residence of the worthy member for Ross-shire.”

September 14.—The whole of the evidence for the prosecution of the Queen was now ended, and the House of Lords adjourned to the 3rd of October.

Ibid.—Three civil cases were tried at Inverness before Lord Gillies and a jury. The first had reference to a weir on the River Ness, the second to a commony claim from Sutherland, and the third was an action by the Rev. Dr Ross, Lochbroom. The special interest affecting these cases arose from the presence of Mr Jeffrey and Mr Cockburn as counsel. The Court was crowded almost to suffocation during the three days, and the eloquence and ingenuity of the advocates created a great impression.

September 21.—There was some commotion in prospect of the annual election of the Town Council of Elgin. Eight of the members issued a circular, in which they declared that their intentions are “to vote into the Town Council such gentlemen only as are fully qualified agreeably to the set of the burgh,” and that “neither threats nor any consideration whatever” would deter them from exercising their just rights “in order to restore to the burgesses of Elgin their lawful franchise, and thereby to put an end to a yoke of the most degrading and arbitrary nature.” The subscribers of the circular call upon the Sheriffs of the county, the Magistrates, and every good citizen, to give them that pro-

tection which as loyal subjects they were entitled to claim. In the same issue there is a report on the Royal Burghs of Scotland by a Select Committee of the House of Commons. Among other matters, this report calls attention to an extraordinary set of facts disclosed by Colonel Francis William Grant, M.P. "It appears that Colonel Grant was Provost of the burgh of Elgin during the years 1816, 1817, and 1818; also Provost of Forres during two of those same years, 1816 and 1817; and also in the Council of the burgh of Nairn from the year 1812 to the present time inclusive. It is required by the sets of three out of the four burghs, of which Colonel Grant was in Council at the same time, that the members of Council should be merchants or traffickers within the respective burghs. It must be superfluous to the Committee to observe that these four burghs are so far distant from each other as to render the observance of this provision of the sets of three of them wholly incompatible with the facts detailed in the evidence." The Committee, however, add that the irregularity was due rather to the defects of the system than to the individual.

September 28.—A correspondent writes:—"A complete revolution has been effected in the burgh management of Elgin at the present election. The contending parties approached the goal neck and neck, but the F— interest finally predominated. We now stand—Alexr. Innes, Esq., Provost; Messrs John Forsyth, Peter Nicholson, David Cormie, and William Dunbar, Bailies; Lewis Anderson, Dean of Guild; Robert Dick, Treasurer. Last night the town of Elgin was brilliantly illuminated, and numbers of the inhabitants paraded the streets with torch-lights to celebrate the present election of Magistrates and Town Council." This was probably a reaction against the Strathspey Raid.

September 28.—This issue contains extracts from Mr Loch's work on the Improvements in Sutherland.

October 5.—Sir William Gordon-Cumming of Altyre elected Provost of Nairn.—Mr Macpherson-Grant of Ballindalloch, M.P., elected Provost of Wick. This compliment was paid to Mr Macpherson-Grant on the motion of Sir John Sinclair, in recognition of his services to the fisheries.

Ibid.—A sum of £50 was remitted by Mr Kenneth Macpherson of Jamaica, being subscriptions collected in the Colony in aid of the Society for Educating the Poor in the Highlands.

October 12.—A long report is given of the proceedings connected with the trial of the Queen, and the same subject continues to engross subsequent issues.

Ibid.—“The ladies of Elgin have presented the new Provost with a handsome gold chain, to be worn by him and his successors in office so long as the Magistrates and Council maintain their independence.”—Colin Mackenzie of Kilcoy was elected Provost of Dingwall, and Roderick Macfarquhar Provost of Fortrose.

October 19.—The steamboat between Glasgow and Fort-William had been so successful that another boat was to be put on the route, and the voyage performed twice a week.

Ibid.—“So great is the interest excited by the trial of the Queen that a Reading-room has been established at Brora, where the principal London papers are taken in.”

October 26.—The Northern Meeting was held the previous week. The Marquis of Huntly (described as “the life and soul of every society”) was absent, but otherwise there was a satisfactory attendance. The chair was filled successively by Mr Macleod of Cadboll, Sir James Dunbar, and Sir William Gordon-Cumming. Neighbouring proprietors sent presents of game.

Ibid.—The premiums given by the Board of Agriculture for the best cultivated farm in the county of Moray had been adjudged in the previous May to Mrs Geddes of Orbliston. The lady was permitted to make her own choice of plate, and now received two handsome cups, a tea-pot, milk-ewer, and sugar bowl, with a suitable inscription. The improvements were planned by her deceased husband “at a period when the spirit of agricultural exertion in Morayshire was by no means so conspicuous as at present.” They consisted in the conversion of “fifty acres of moorish ground, on which previously not a blade of grass or corn had ever grown, into excellent arable land, by the liberal use of lime and a judicious mode of subsequent improvement.” Mrs Geddes had continued the work on obtaining a renewal of the lease.

Ibid.—The Right Hon. William Dundas, M.P., was elected Provost of Tain, and the Marquis of Stafford Provost of Dornoch.

November 9.—Mr J. Murray, who was lecturing on chemistry in Inverness, contributes an article on the constituents of the water of the River Ness. He says that Loch-Ness does not freeze because the water is so deep that the severest of our winters fails to reduce the surface to freezing point.



November 16.—The second reading of the bill for divorcing the Queen was carried in the Lords by a majority of 28. On the third reading, however, the majority fell to 9, and Ministers then abandoned the bill.

November 23.—This issue contains a report of rejoicings throughout the country on the abandonment of the Divorce Bill. At Inverness an intimation was circulated that a number of the inhabitants intended to illuminate on the evening of Tuesday, 21st. The Magistrates thereupon announced that this intimation was wholly unauthorised by them, and that if any illumination took place, steps would be taken to secure the public peace. With this view, and to protect those who did not illuminate, the Magistrates invited a number of gentlemen to assist in keeping the peace, and also called out the Civil Force and the detachment of Militia stationed at Inverness. "This force," says the report, "assembled on Tuesday evening, but happily there was no occasion for their interference, as the people behaved with propriety and good humour, which do credit to the character of the town. At the hour announced (6 o'clock) those intending to illuminate, lighted up; and as the evening was uncommonly soft and beautiful, a very great concourse of persons of both sexes traversed the streets to enjoy the novelty of the scene. The illumination was very partial in the principal streets of the town, the thick blaze being confined to the west side of the river and the different suburbs. Fire-works and huzzaing completed the circle of the ordinary accompaniments of illumination; and if the people were occasionally a little loud in their exultation, it all passed off very well on a night consecrated by them to enjoyment. We have heard of no offence being committed; and have much pleasure in stating that no insult was offered to the private feelings of either the Lighters or Non-Lighters."

December 21.—"Sir Hugh Innes, Bart., has made arrangements for plying a large steamboat, calculated for the conveyance of bulky commodities between Kyleakin, in Lochalsh, and Glasgow, once a week, to commence early in spring." The next issue states that a steamboat called the Highland Chieftain made the first voyage to Kyleakin about a fortnight before.

## No. XVI.

The year 1821 opened under the shadow cast by the Queen's trial, so recently brought to an inglorious close. Loyal addresses were voted to the King, but not without opposition, and with a marked desire to exercise severe criticism on the conduct of the Government. Examples of this will be found below. As the year advanced, the development of steam communication by way of Aberdeen created much interest along the northern seaboard.

In the second half of 1821 public attention was directed to the coronation of the King, the refusal to admit the Queen to the ceremony, her Majesty's subsequent death, and the unfortunate incidents which attended her funeral procession in London. The visit of the King to Ireland was also a subject of interest and of more hopefulness than the circumstances warranted.

The first entry in July gives the population of the town and parish of Inverness, which was less than half what it has now reached. One of the most curious cases in the history of Excise prosecutions will be found in the notes for December.

*From the "Inverness Courier."*

1821.

January 4.—In this and other issues there are loyal addresses to the King from county meetings, Town Councils, and Presbyteries. The "Courier" at the same time mentions that party zeal of a political kind had long been absent from the Highlands, but was now beginning to show itself.

Ibid.—"On Thursday, the 7th ult., the Highland Chieftain steamboat returned from her trip from Glasgow to Kyleakin, in Skye. She completed her voyage to that place, which is 240 miles from Glasgow, in 35 hours and 50 minutes, and she completed her voyage home in 40 hours and 16 minutes, notwithstanding having experienced the violent gales we had at the beginning of the month, and having to contend with many of the very rapid currents in the narrows along the western coast. We understand that the proprietors of this boat have resolved to ply her between Glasgow and Kyleakin by Crinan, Oban, and Tobermory, during the ensuing summer."

January 11.—A report of the Inverness county meeting shows that the terms of the loyal address to the King caused a lively discussion. Glengarry, who was not present, wrote that he saw no necessity for addressing his Majesty at present. Mr Grant of Rothiemurchus criticised with severity the conduct of his Majesty's Ministers, and moved an amendment. Mr Fraser of Auchnagairn asked Mr Grant who gained the battle of Waterloo. "Mr Grant replied, not his Majesty's Ministers, God knows. Had my Lord Liverpool, my Lord Castlereagh, or Mr Vansittart commanded that day, the battle would not have been gained. And had the Duke of Wellington possessed no more wisdom, vigour, or consistency than these gentlemen, even he would not have obtained the victory." Mr Fraser, yr. of Torbreck, who seconded the amendment, said that without entering at all into the question of the guilt or innocence of the Queen, he considered the withdrawal of the Bill of Pains and Penalties one of the proudest triumphs the people of England had ever obtained. The amendment was ultimately withdrawn, but the following clause adopted from it was introduced into the address:—"We have the utmost satisfaction in being able to assure your Majesty that in this part of your Majesty's dominions, there exists no spirit of disaffection, or irreligion, or of immorality, nor have any attempts been made, so far as we have been able to learn, either by the circulation of books and writings, or otherwise, to shake the loyalty or to corrupt the manners of the people." In several county meetings elsewhere and in Presbyteries opposition was shown to the voting of addresses. "Dr Chalmers in Glasgow and Mr Andrew Thomson in Edinburgh respectively withstood the proposed Addresses, and reprobated the interference of the clergy in political matters, as the sure means of lowering the clerical character, injuring the cause of religion, and lessening the influence of its teachers over the minds of the people." Mr Macleod, yr. of Cadholl, dissented from some parts of the Address adopted by the county of Ross.

Ibid.—The directors of the Sacred Music Institution announced that Mr Hunter had been engaged and had commenced teaching as successor to Mr Huntly.

January 18 and 25.—Reports of meetings, from many parts of England and Scotland, show the excitement that prevailed. Loyal addresses were voted to the King, but the conduct of Ministers was frequently censured.

February 1.—Parliament was opened on the 23rd inst. by the King in person, and the speech from the Throne recommended the Commons to provide an income for the Queen. This concession tended to allay the public temper. The amount subsequently voted was £50,000 a-year.

February 8.—There is a report of a dinner of the Celtic Society in Edinburgh (the third general meeting), at which Sir Walter Scott presided, supported by Glengarry and Macleod of Macleod. About 70 gentlemen were present, attired in the Highland dress. The principal object of the Society was to promote the general use of the Highland garb in the Highlands. Sir Walter, in replying to the toast of his own health, said that it had been his good fortune in early life to be much in the Highlands. "He remembered with delight how he used to cling round the knees of some aged Highlander, and listen half astonished, half afraid, to the tales and traditions of that romantic country. It was then and there that he had imbibed that love for wild scenery and legendary lore which had since procured him what reputation he enjoyed. He knew that his friend, Sir John Malcolm, when on his embassy to Persia, had gained much reputation by narrating to the Eastern Court, in their own language, the Arabian tales. He, in like manner, had only given back to his country the tales which they had formerly known and loved."

February 15.—"A reading-room was opened at Cromarty on Tuesday week, which is to take in three London daily papers, two Edinburgh papers, and the two Inverness papers. This establishment must be found peculiarly useful to the stirring town of Cromarty."

Ibid.—It is reported that the Badenoch Auxiliary of the Bible Society had collected £58 0s 2½d. Rev. Mr Macdonald, minister of Alvie, writes:—"Considering the almost total failure of the potato crop, on which the poorer class depend as their principal food for three-fourths of the year; the great fall in the price of cattle and sheep, the staple commodity of the country, during the whole of the last season, and more particularly towards the conclusion of it, together with the general poverty of the country, the above amount collected in these circumstances is a clear proof that the Bible is not undervalued among the Highlanders of this district."

February 22.—"The Society for educating the poor in the Highlands have, upon certain conditions, come definitely to the resolution of erecting a building in Inverness as a Central

and Model School, and they have fixed on a plan which will afford accommodation for 300 scholars, who are to be educated on the new or Lancastrian system. The meeting at which this resolution was adopted was held here on Tuesday, in the Town Hall, and was numerously attended, Colin Mackenzie, Esq. of Kilcoy, being in the chair." The directors only agreed to the erection of a school on such a large scale on condition of the inhabitants of the town becoming bound for a portion of the expense. To this a number of the inhabitants assented, and an agreement was entered into by which the Society was secured in the interest of the money to be expended on the building, and the feu-duty of the ground on which it was to be erected. The new school was to be erected on the west side of the river, immediately opposite the English [High] Church. It was calculated that the three schools, Academy, Raining's, and Central, would provide accommodation for 900 boys and girls, covering the whole school population of the town.

**Ibid.**—Indications are noted of returning prosperity in the manufacturing districts, and "even in this remote quarter." With reference to this district, "it is remarked both by commercial travellers and those connected with agriculture, that they recollect of no season in which the payment of accounts has been more prompt or fresh orders more liberally given."

**Ibid.**—In a scuffle near Milton of Kilravock between three Excisemen and two smugglers, a father and son, the father received injuries from which he died. The smugglers had refused to surrender the illicit spirits which they were conveying in a cart.

**Ibid.**—A list of premiums is published, adjudged by the Highland Society of Scotland to competitors in Highland districts. "Our Northern readers will feel gratified by observing that the premiums for improving sheep pasture by making sheep drains are making their way towards us. We learn that in the county of Sutherland there are some farms, on each of which, within the last five or six years, upwards of 50 miles of sheep drains have been executed."

**March 1.**—On the previous Monday, officers of Excise secured three horses laden with nearly six ankers of smuggled whisky, on the north side of Kessock Ferry, on their way to Inverness.

**March 8.**—A controversy arose in connection with the Inverness Athanæum. It was alleged that of five London daily papers received into the

room, four had for some time been Opposition papers, and that of eight taken in during the Queen's trial, seven were Opposition and only one Ministerial. It seems that there were about 130 subscribers to the institution, and a number of these threatened to resign unless both classes of newspapers were fairly represented. The annual meeting agreed to take in three Ministerial and three Opposition papers. It appeared to be uncertain, however, whether feeling would be allayed. As the institution was in debt, the subscription was raised from £1 1s to £1 10s per annum.

March 15.—A school for the instruction of female children was opened in Inverness. The classes were held in the Old Academy.

March 22.—“Yesterday the Rev. Mr Scott was ordained minister of the burgher congregation of this place. A number of the neighbouring ministers in the same connection attended on this occasion, and the Rev. Mr Anderson, of Boghole, and Mr Kennedy, of Keith, preached two very appropriate sermons. We understand that a new meeting-house is immediately to be erected to accommodate this congregation and their new pastor.”

Ibid.—“A smuggling lugger discharged part of a cargo of gin, brandy, tea, tobacco, &c., at a fishing village near Alturle Point, below Culloden, on Thursday, the 1st inst. Of the whole cargo, only seven matts of coarse tobacco, containing about a cwt. each, two boxes of tea, and a small quantity of snuff were seized. Information was given to the Acting Supervisor in Inverness, not until eight days after the landing, and after his proceeding to the place of concealment he found that the whole smuggled goods had been removed.” Several seizures of the smuggled articles were afterwards made, amounting in value to about £1000. The smuggling lugger succeeded in landing goods at other places on the coast.

March 22.—This issue publishes a correspondence between Glengarry and Clanranald arising out of the question of the Chiefship.

Ibid.—“Died, on the 20th inst., Alexander Fraser, Esq. of Torbreck, in the 77th year of his age, deeply and justly regretted.”

April 12.—A half-witted man, named Gunn, from Caithness, confined on a charge of sheep-stealing, effected his escape with considerable ingenuity from the prison of Inverness. He got out about two in the morning. “But in proof of his real insanity, instead of profiting by having by many hours the start of his pursuers, he knocked up the people of an adjoining public-

house, boasted of what he had done, and demanded some whisky. The consequence was that the alarm was immediately given, and by ten o'clock he was taken a few miles beyond Nairn. He had called at the jail of Nairn to visit a friend there on his way."

**April 12.**—Riots occurred at Gruids, in Sutherland, in resistance of summonses of removal. A military force had to be called in to quell the disturbance.

**May 3.**—This issue contains the report of the trial at the Circuit Court of seven persons from Elgin charged with the stealing of a Bailie. The unfortunate person was Bailie Francis Taylor, who had been carried away from Elgin and conveyed in a boat to Brora, to prevent him acting in the Fife interest at the election of 1820. The defence alleged that Taylor was a consenting party to his own removal, and as the Crown considered the evidence for the prosecution insufficient, they threw up the case, consenting to a verdict of not guilty.

**May 10.**—Mr Charles Grant, senior, late M.P. for the county, presided at the annual meeting of the Inverness Auxiliary of the Bible Society. The Society had that year transmitted £200 to the British and Foreign Bible Society, a much larger sum than had been sent in any former year. A sum of £1050 in all had now been transmitted to the parent institution.

*Ibid.*—"When Mr Charles Grant, senior, retired from the representation of the county, he was requested by the freeholders to sit for his picture, which was to be hung in the Court-room here. The painting was some time ago finished by Raeburn, and does great credit to his pencil. It was hung up before the meeting of the Court at the late Assizes. The many obligations which this county and the Highlands at large owe to the devoted zeal with which Mr Grant has, for a large portion of his useful life, promoted every object connected with the prosperity of the county, was very happily expressed by Dr Robertson at the late public dinner in honour of his Majesty's birthday. Dr Robertson concluded his observations by saying that 'Inverness-shire did not owe so much to all the members who had represented the county since the Union, as to the individual efforts of the late member.'" The portrait now hangs in the Sheriff Court-room in the Castle.

**May 17.**—A conveyance was established to run between Inverness and Cromarty once in ten days, for the convenience of passengers going by the London smacks. It is stated that the want of such a conveyance had hitherto "made

the smacks nearly useless to the people of this quarter." The vessels were said to be comfortable and even elegant.

May 24.—"At Resolis, on the 14th inst., the Rev. Robert Arthur, minister of the united parish of Kincardine and Cullicuden, in the 78th year of his age and 47th of his ministry. He was a man of respectable talents and gifts; a warm and animated preacher of the Gospel; like our blessed Lord, he went about doing all the good in his power to both the souls and bodies of men, having considerable skill in medicine as well as theology."

May 31.—"Here, on the 20th inst., after a short illness, the Rev. Alexander Fraser, senior minister of this town, in the 70th year of his age, and the 43rd of his ministry. The gentleness and kindness of his disposition, his unfeigned piety, and exemplary conduct, procured him the attachment of his friends and the respect of his flock." The heritors and Magistrates made application to have the Rev. Thomas Fraser, minister of the Third Charge, transferred to the First. This they did in recognition of Mr Thomas Fraser's zealous labours in the community, and his attention to the poor and sick. He had carried on his work for twenty years on a very slender stipend. Rev. Mr Rose, who held the second charge, had "very handsomely waived his claims in favour of his highly deserving colleague."

Ibid.—This issue announces the beginning of a regular conveyance by steam vessels between Aberdeen and Leith. "The 'Tourist' arrived at Aberdeen on Thursday last (24th inst.) betwixt eight and nine o'clock in the evening, in the face of a strong northerly wind, from Leith, after calling at most of the intermediate places; and another steam vessel, of like elegant description will put on the trade in a few weeks, when one will sail from each port daily." The vessel entered Aberdeen Harbour in grand style, with a band of music playing.

June 14.—A man named William Cochrane set up bathing machines at Seabank to encourage bathing in the neighbourhood of Inverness.

Ibid.—The annual meeting of the Northern Missionary Society was held at Inverness. Rev. Mr Smith, Cromarty, preached in the High Church, and Rev. Mr Mackintosh, Tain, in the Church-yard. A sum of £54 was collected at the door, and £58 contributed by subscription, making a total of £112.

Ibid.—A steam vessel called the "Brilliant" was launched at Dumbarton, to complete the connection with Inverness by way of Aberdeen.



She was 106 feet keel length and 125 feet deck, and had engines of 80 horse-power.

Ibid.—“Died, in Great Pulteney Street, Bath, between two and three o'clock in the morning of Friday week, the Right Hon. John Campbell, Lord Cawdor, of Castlemartin, Pembrokeshire. His lordship is succeeded in his title and estates by the Hon. John Frederick Campbell, M.P. for Carmarthen, who married the eldest daughter of the Marquis of Bath.”

June 21.—The Wool Market was held a day or two before. The following prices were obtained:—For Cheviot wool, 18s to 20s per stone of 24 lbs. English. Some blackfaced wool sold at 20s per double stone, but the market prices may be stated at from 18s to 20s. Good widders brought 20s; the general market price, 18s to 20s; Cheviot ewes, 14s to 16s; blackfaced ewes 12s; Cheviot lambs, 8s; blackfaced, 6s to 7s. A considerable quantity of wool had been disposed of, but the more opulent farmers had not accepted the offers of the staplers. All the sheep were not disposed of.

Ibid.—“Died, at Rosehall, on the 10th inst., William Munro, gardener at Rosehall ever since 1747. As he was a married man with a large family when he first came there, and had been employed as a gardener elsewhere for several years, his age at that time could scarcely be less than 30; and he must therefore have attained at least the age of 104. Yet in spite of this extraordinary longevity, he retained the full use of his faculties, and was able to walk about till within a very short period before his death.”

June 28.—Four persons who had been convicted of theft and sentenced to transportation at the Circuit Court, broke the jail at Nairn and escaped. One of them, a woman, was soon recaptured.

July 5.—“The population of the town and parish of Inverness has just been ascertained, and amounts to 12,194. In 1811 it was 11,600, giving an increase of only 594. In 1811 a woollen and a thread manufactory were in full employment in Inverness, both which are now given up. The operations of the Canal were also carrying on in the immediate neighbourhood of the town, which are now completed. These works caused a great population in 1811, and are some of the reasons why the increase is so small.”

Ibid.—“As an instance of the remarkable drought this season, Loch-Lomond has lately fallen fully seven feet perpendicularly from the water mark; and persons pass and repass between two

of the islands on stepping stones which had been placed there. Our own fine river is now lower than we ever remember to have seen it."

*Ibid.*—The issue contains the report of the Commissioners on Highland Roads and Bridges, giving a summary of the work accomplished since their appointment in 1803. They had expended to the 31st of December 1820 the sum of £470,548. Parliamentary grants amounted, with interest, to £252,390, and contributions by Highland proprietors, with interest, to £212,860, a sum of over £5000 still remaining to be provided. The Commissioners note with satisfaction that they had absolutely avoided a single instance of litigation in all their multiplied transactions, though the contracts to which they had been parties were no less than 120 in number. They stated with regret, however, that contractors and their cautioners had suffered to a large amount under the strictness of the specifications. "Various memorials have been successively transmitted from Scotland praying some compensation for losses incurred; and the Commissioners now find with deep regret that the very extent of the evil precludes them from giving any hope of relief, the unavoidable losses of sureties, contractors and the creditors of these contractors, being estimated at £34,000; their actual loss having been probably twice that sum." The roads consisted of 874 miles, 1521 yards, executed by means of Parliamentary grants and contributions from Highland proprietors; 283 miles of military roads, and 24 miles of roads in Ross and Cromarty, executed solely by county funds, but all of which were repairable under an Act of 1819, the total extending to 1182 miles 1521 yards. The total number of bridges erected was 1117.

July 12.—The announcement is made of the death of Napoleon Buonaparte (he is not called Emperor) in the Island of St Helena on the 5th of May. A short article points the moral of his extraordinary career and final destiny. The writer astutely remarks that "by the death of Napoleon, this country will save considerably in money, and lose what, in spite of the thrifty fit that is upon us just now, we really value more—Continental influence."

*Ibid.*—Preparations were in progress for the Coronation of George IV. The Queen claimed as a right the honour of being crowned. This was ultimately refused.

*Ibid.*—An advertisement announces that hot and cold baths were about to be opened in Nairn.

July 19.—A correspondent writes—"Notwith-

standing the rapid progress of knowledge and civilisation in this country, the whole rigid and impolitic order of ecclesiastical censure is still observed in some Highland districts. Not many weeks ago a clergyman in one of the Northern Counties caused a young woman stand and undergo censure for three successive Sundays in presence of the congregation, although she had been married at least seven months before she became a mother. This is an excessively rigorous, if not an unwarrantable, exercise of the clerical functions."

July 26.—This number contains a full account of the King's Coronation in Westminster Abbey on the 19th inst. The Queen was refused admission. Dinners to celebrate the Coronation were held at Inverness and other towns. At the end of the month the King left on a visit to Ireland.

August 9.—"From August 1819 to March 1821 the Sutherlandshire Association paid for the destruction of vermin the sum of £320. The vermin destroyed during that time consisted of 112 full-grown eagles, 18 young eagles, 211 foxes, 317 wild cats, martins, and pole cats; 516 ravens, 281 hawks, 1183 carrion crows and magpies, and 570 rooks and jackdaws."

Ibid.—A letter from Glengarry explains why a lady was needlessly alarmed by his appearance at the Coronation. He was dressed in the full costume of a Highland Chief, including a brace of pistols. At a particular stage Glengarry happened to carry one of the pistols in his hand, and this alarmed the lady.

August 16.—Several columns are devoted to the death of the Queen, with comments from the London papers. It is stated that her Majesty's death, "so sudden in itself, and closing as it does a life pursued by evil fortune, appears to be profoundly felt by the nation." Her demise was announced in the "Gazette" with the usual symbols of mourning, and at the houses of the principal nobility the window shutters were closed. Later, at the funeral procession of the Queen through London, there was a disturbance and two men were killed by military fire. During this time the King was in Ireland.

Ibid.—The Inverness Central School was opened on Monday the 13th. About 60 children were enrolled.

Ibid.—Opposition was made to the clergyman presented to the living of the parish of Kiltarlity. Some of the parishioners shut up the doors and windows of the church to prevent him gaining admission. The presentee preached in the open air.

August 25.—The steamer Brilliant reached Inverness on the night of the 22nd. A great many persons flocked to the Canal Basin, where she was expected to moor, but to their disappointment the vessel stopped at Kessock. "The Brilliant started from Newhaven at 6 o'clock Tuesday morning, reached Peterhead at 8 in the evening, and starting again at 6 o'clock on Wednesday, reached Inverness about 8. The time in which the voyage was performed (including calls) was exactly 29 hours." Previous to this the Brilliant sailed from the West Coast round the Pentland Firth to Aberdeen and Leith. "This is said to be the first vessel that ever got through the Pentland Firth and round Duncansbay Head, against the full force of a stream tide and strong contrary wind."

August 30.—The new Parish Church of Rosemarkie was opened on the 12th inst.—A show of sheep, for premiums given by the Highland Society, was held at Golspie on the 23rd.

September 6.—Prominence is given to the report of a concert, which opens with the remark that "the visits of good musicians to this country are like those of angels, few and far between." The vocalists were Mr Welsh, Mr Horn, and Miss Wilson, whose names may possibly be recalled by those familiar with the singing of the time. Miss Wilson was the favourite.

Ibid.—"Died, on the 23rd ult., James, youngest son of James Grant, Esq. of Bught, a youth in his 18th year, who lost his life while bathing in the river Lea, near Hertford College. The untimely fate of this amiable young man has occasioned universal sorrow among those who knew him."

September 13.—Died, at Drumduan, Forres, on the 7th inst., James Miller, late mathematical instrument maker at 12 Blewitt's Building, Fetter Lane, London. He was a native of Forres, and by trade a blacksmith. Having gone to London, he boarded in the house of a sextant-maker, and soon became a skilful worker, ultimately acquiring distinction by effecting improvements in mathematical instruments. He had the honour to receive several gold and silver medals from the London Society of Arts.

September 20.—Public rooms were opened at Kingussie on the 14th, and pony and foot races were held. The Marquis of Tweeddale was judge of the races. A party dined at Pitmain Inn, the Marquis of Huntly presiding. A ball, held in the new rooms in the evening, was attended by 100 ladies and gentlemen. The Marchioness of Huntly was present.

*Ibid.*—Soaking rains and sultry heat had greatly damaged the crops in England, and prices rose considerably in the corn markets. Harvest work in the North, however, was carried on under favourable conditions. The accounts from England were exaggerated, and prices afterwards rather declined.

September 27.—The Northern Meeting was held the previous week, an earlier date than in previous years. The change was considered satisfactory, and “the concourse of fashionable company was unusually great.”

*Ibid.*—A change was about to take place in the mails all over the country, accelerating speed. To the south of Aberdeen the rate was to be nine miles an hour; from Aberdeen to Inverness, eight miles an hour; and from Inverness to Thurso, seven miles an hour. The times for despatch and arrival were also changed. The effect was to save nearly a day between Wick and Edinburgh, and a full day between Edinburgh and London.

October 4.—The revenue of the Inverness Common Good, derived from Petty Customs, tolls at the two bridges, anchorage and shore dues, &c., amounted this year to £993 15s, being an increase of £70 on the previous year.

*Ibid.*—At a county meeting, Mr Fraser-Tytler called attention to the question of a new gaol and Court-house for Inverness. The subject had been before the meeting on a previous occasion, and a remit to the Convener was continued, with instructions to correspond with other counties. At the same meeting attention was directed to the expense of keeping up the military roads in the county, and suggestions were made for reducing the expense.

October 11.—Two columns giving an account of an adventure on the Alps are contributed to this issue, under the initials J.A. (probably John Anderson). Other issues about this time contain cleverly written papers on the situation and appearance of the town of Inverness. The writer mentions the floats of timber which were conducted down the river by a single raftsman, guided by a long pole.

October 18.—“We are desired by the ministers of Kingussie and Laggan to state that the young laird of Cluny has handsomely bestowed on the poor of these parishes the purse of 11 guineas which he won at the pony race run at Kingussie on the 14th ult., excepting 2 guineas given to the boy who rode the pony.”

October 25.—Mr Mackenzie of Newhall presented the Rev. Donald Sage, minister of the Gaelic Chapel of Ease, in Aberdeen, to the church and

united parishes of Kirkmichael and Culicudden, vacant by the death of the Rev. Robert Arthur.

—The death is recorded in the same issue of Colonel Colin Mackenzie, C.B., of the Madras Engineers, Surveyor-General of India. Colonel Mackenzie had rendered eminent services to the Company and to science in general, by active and indefatigable researches into the history and antiquities of India. He was a native of the Lews, and was very liberal to private and public charities in the island. Colonel Mackenzie was 68 years of age, and spent 40 years in the service of the Company.

November 1.—A correspondence at this time was going on about cattle markets and a resolution adopted by drovers not to go beyond Conon-Bridge. The drovers complained that further north they were subjected to many inconveniences, and that cattle purchased by them were seized for trespass if they went ever so little off the highway. The then owner of Ardross seems to have been peculiarly vigilant in seizing cattle straying from the old drove road from Kincardine to Strathrusdale. The drovers likewise complained of the site of the market held at Kyle.

November 22.—“The new Chapel of the United Associate Congregation in this place was opened on Sunday last, by the Rev. Mr Stark, of Forres, who preached three discourses in the course of the day to very crowded congregations; when a collection amounting to £15 15s was made to be applied in aid of the expense of building the Chapel.”

November 29.—“On Saturday night, or rather early on Sunday morning, Mr Fraser, supervisor of Excise, accompanied by Mr Mackay, Collector's clerk, discovered at the Abban, behind Huntly Place, five men and three women, conveying several small casks of smuggled whisky into the town for sale. On the officers attempting to make a seizure, a scuffle ensued between them and the smugglers, when the latter got off with all their booty, except one small cask, which was secured by the officers. Both parties were a good deal hurt in the affray, and one of the smugglers is so ill that he has been sent to the Infirmary.”

December 6.—There is a report of a curious Excise case tried at a Justice of Peace Court at Inverness. The master of a smack called the Janet, had on her voyage from Leith picked up a considerable quantity of gin, which had been landed and concealed on the premises of the shoremaster. On the Excise officers making inquiry, the shoremaster denied all knowledge

of the gin, but after a search, 18 kegs were discovered under ground in his garden, with cabbage planted over them, and several pints were found in a jar in his kitchen. The Excise sued for heavy penalties. The defence was that the complaint was wrongly laid; that the gin had been found on the high seas and came under the denomination of flotsam; that under the statute the finder was obliged within 24 hours after landing the kegs to give notice to the Excise; that in this case the Excise had not waited for 24 hours, but had seized the gin before the expiry of that period; and hence that no penalty was due. The Court admitted the soundness of this plea, and exonerated the defenders. Notice was then given that an action of damages would be raised against the officers for having detained the smack from the 6th of October till the beginning of December.

December 27.—The retirement of Mr Charles Grant from the office of Chief Secretary for Ireland is announced. There had been differences on the question of the Catholic claims. Mr Grant was succeeded as Chief Secretary by Mr Henry Goulburn.

## No. XVII.

Readers who have been following the progress of affairs will be interested in seeing the aspect which the question of legal and illegal distillation had assumed in 1822. The Act authorising the establishment of small stills had failed in effect on account of the restrictive character of the Excise regulations, and smuggling was in as full activity as ever. An explanation is likewise furnished of the causes which enabled smugglers in those days to produce better whisky than the legalised distilleries.

In the second half of the year 1822, the Western Highlands and Islands found themselves confronted with a serious economic crisis. The kelp industry had been a source of employment to the people, and of profit to the island and seaboard proprietors. Suddenly, in 1822, by the virtual abolition of the salt duties and the reduction of the tax on Spanish barilla, the value of the industry received a fatal shock. This chapter in Highland history is briefly related by Mr Spencer Walpole. He points out that in the first part of the nineteenth century the population in the West Highlands rapidly multiplied. "Their multiplication was stimulated by a peculiar cause. The sea washed on their foreshores at every tide large quantities of sea-weed; and the weed or kelp, when burned, produced an ash which contained a strong alkali, and formed a chief ingredient in the manufacture of soap and other commodities. The proprietors of the Western Hebrides derived a large annual revenue from licensing their tenantry as kelp-burners, and the boast of one of them is still recollected that his shores were lined with a silver fringe. Until after the accession of George IV., the incineration of kelp formed the chief industry of these islands. The price of alkali averaged £10, and occasionally exceeded £20 a ton. After the war, however, the kelp burners were subjected to competition. The barilla, a plant of foreign growth, yields on incineration a larger percentage of alkali than kelp. Alkali therefore could be produced more economically from the one than from the other. Protective duties alone maintained the industry of the kelp-burners. In 1787 Parliament imposed a duty of £5 5s a ton on barilla; Vansittart in 1819 raised the duty on



alkali to £11 a ton. In 1822, forced to make concessions, he reduced the duty on barilla from £11 to £8. In 1823, Robinson further reduced it to £5. In 1830 Goulburn lowered it to £2; while in 1844, Peel fixed the duty on alkali at 30s, the duty on barilla at only 5s a ton. In 1845 the duty was repealed." Our notes show what consternation was created by the alterations of 1822. The effect was expected to be the more severe, as the Highlands and Islands were at the time suffering from the failure of crops and fishing.

The Caledonian Canal was opened from sea to sea in October 1822. It had proved a long and costly undertaking. The original estimate of the engineer, Mr Telford, was £350,000, but labour and values rose during the protracted European war, and many parts of the work proved more difficult than was anticipated. The Canal was seventeen years in process of construction, and cost up to the time of opening over £900,000. Even then it was but partially completed. It was not until 1843 that the work was finished as it stands to-day, and the disbursements had then reached the sum of £1,300,000.

*From the "Inverness Courier."*

1822.

January 3.—What is described as "a numerous and highly respectable assemblage of Catholic noblemen and gentlemen" presented the Right Hon. Charles Grant with an address on the occasion of his retiring from the office of Chief Secretary of Ireland. The address expresses unfeigned respect and regard for Mr Grant, and adds—"Your able assertion of our rights in Parliament was the first demand upon our gratitude, and we have had repeated proofs, in your official conduct, of the consistency of that principle which awakened in our vindication your eloquence and your zeal."

January 31.—The publication of James Suter's *Memorabilia of Inverness* began on this date, and was continued in subsequent issues.

February 7.—"On Wednesday the 30th ult., the Rev. James Mein was ordained pastor of the United Associate Congregation of Nairn. The Rev. Andrew Kennedy, of Keith, preached and presided, and the Rev. Thomas Stark, of Forres, delivered the usual addresses and conducted the solemn services. The Rev. James Grant, minister of the parish, with a kind, Christian, and

truly liberal spirit, gave the use of his church on account of its more ample accommodation. The church was crowded to excess, many could not gain admittance, and during the whole of the services the very large assembly exhibited the most becoming attention. Afterwards the Presbytery, with the Rev. Messrs Grant and Barclay, the resident Magistrates of the burgh, the Dean of Guild, the Sheriff-Substitute, and about twenty other gentlemen of the town and county, dined together in Richardson's Inn; a circumstance which affords a very pleasing proof of the prevalence of liberal and kindly feeling in Nairn and its neighbourhood. In the evening a sermon was preached before the Presbytery by Mr George Kennedy, student in Divinity, as part of his trials for licence, and after various examinations he was licensed to preach the Gospel."

**Ibid.**—The condition of Ireland was going from bad to worse. Numerous crimes of violence are reported. At the same time the landed interest in England and Scotland was suffering severely from the pressure of the times. A quotation in this issue from an agricultural journal is in an exceptionally gloomy tone.

**February 14.**—The Highland Society of Scotland, among other premiums, offers a piece of plate, value fifty guineas, "for the best and approved essay on the construction of railroads for the conveyance of ordinary commodities." The essay was to be accompanied by models or drawings to illustrate its statements.

**March 21.**—"A conspiracy was formed by the prisoners in the common room in the Dingwall Jail last week, to overpower the keepers of the jail, seize the keys, and set themselves at liberty. By the spirited resistance of the jailers, however, they failed, and a guard of the Militia staff is now placed over them."

**March 28.**—The Rev. Alexander Clark was on this day week ordained and admitted to the third charge in the parish of Inverness. The Rev. A. Campbell, of Dores, preached and presided on the occasion.

**April 4.**—There is an account of the famous duel near Balmuto, in Fife, between Sir Alexander Boswell of Auchinleck and Mr Stewart of Dunearn. Sir Alexander was severely wounded, and died the following day.

**Ibid.**—This issue contains an exceedingly interesting report by a Committee of the Highland Society on the subject of distillation in the Highlands. It seems that the Act of 1816 legalising the establishment of small stills had, to begin with, a wonderful effect. The first year

of the operation of the Act legal distillers increased in the Highlands from 12 to 30; the number of additional gallons distilled was 99,721, and the additional duty paid £18,195. The second year a still further increase took place, but subsequent to that there was a gradual decrease in the number of distillers and a diminution of revenue. The statutory regulations were found too vexatious. By Act 1., George IV., some of these regulations were modified, and a slight revival followed, though not equal to the first movement. Smuggling had not been put down. A numerous class of the community, "chiefly of the lower order of tenantry and crofters," had leagued with a number of desperate characters to violate the law. The Committee, who had circulated a schedule of queries on the whole subject, say that "nothing can possibly exceed the distressing description which is given in the different reports, of the falsehood, intemperance, and brutal ferocity which characterise those who are engaged in this illicit trade." The Committee admit as a point of importance that smuggled whisky was then of better quality than the whisky legally distilled. This disparity was due to the Excise regulations. The legal distiller was obliged to make his wash of a specific strength and to pay duty on a specific quantity of spirits, whether he was able to extract the required amount or not. Owing to the inferiority of the grain grown in the Highlands, "the 100 gallons of wash do not produce the quantity of spirits on which the law calculates and charges duty. In point of fact, the legal distiler is compelled to produce one-fourth or one-fifth more than the smuggler—the consequence of which is that he is under the necessity of using a stronger wash than he would do if left to his own discretion." The Committee call for the abolition of these and other regulations. They entertained little doubt that by the simple expedient of enabling the legal distiller to compete on nearly equal terms with the illicit trader, and by encouraging the use of home-grown barley, smuggling would soon languish and decay.

April 25.—"The obsequies of the late Colonel Grant of Moy, which were recently celebrated in Glen-Urquhart, may be noticed as another lingering instance of a genuine Highland funeral. Besides the gentlemen who attended from all parts of the country, it is calculated that about 4000 Highlanders were assembled, chiefly from Kintail, Strathglass, Glenmoriston, and Glen-Urquhart. The quantity of whisky expended

on this occasion is variously estimated. As most of our readers are tolerable judges of Highland capacities when excited by zeal, it is data sufficient to mention that the whole of this funeral train were, according to their own ideas, comfortable. The gentlemen who rode off the scene of action late in the evening give a very ludicrous account of the appearance of the field. The first return of killed, wounded, and missing was truly alarming. We are glad to learn from subsequent accounts that only one individual, a native of Abriachan, was immolated to the manes of the Colonel. The wounded have recovered and the missing have been found. One of those last, having slumbered out the night of the funeral, and the whole of the succeeding day and night, awoke at a late hour on the third day, and found himself cradled under the falls of Divach, in a situation to which no sober person would have clambered, much less have chosen for a place of repose."

**Ibid.**—"On Tuesday last the Synod of Ross, at their meeting in Tain, unanimously resolved to petition both Houses of Parliament against any further relief being granted to the Roman Catholics. The Synod of Glasgow petition has been already presented, and many similar petitions are in agitation."

**May 9.**—The annual meeting of the Society for Educating the Poor in the Highlands was held on the 1st inst. The report bore that thirty-five schools had been establihed in various remote districts in the Highlands, and it was estimated that daily instruction was imparted to 1746 poor children. Among the donations to the Society was one of £50 from the freeholders of the county of Inverness.

**May 16** —Donations to the amount of £107 were reported to the Inverness-shire Auxiliary of the Bible Society. The Society during the year remitted £180 to the British and Foreign Bible Society, and distributed 395 Bibles and Testaments.

**May 30.**—General indignation was expressed in the town at the cutting down of the fine, old trees—"the only trees in Inverness, indeed"—which had for a century formed the appropriate ornament of the Church-yard. The reason for this destruction no one professed to know.

**May 30.**—There is a report of the proceedings of the General Assembly in the Kiltarlity case. A Protestant Commissioner, acting for Mr T. A. Fraser of Lovat, a Catholic, had issued a presentation in favour of the Rev. Colin Fraser. The Presbytery of Inverness appointed the presentee to preach in the church, and generally

acted at first on the assumption that the presentation was valid. Some of the parishioners, however, applied and got an interdict from the Lord Ordinary on the ground that the patron was a Roman Catholic and had no right to issue a presentation either by himself or through a Commissioner. This staggered the Presbytery, and the majority wished to delay procedure till the civil question was settled. The interdict was afterwards recalled on the ground "that the complainers had no civil right or title to interfere." Still the Presbytery hesitated, but as they had begun by accepting the presentation, the Assembly now instructed them to proceed with the settlement. Though Mr Fraser was ultimately ordained, the case in one form or other was before the Church for two years after this date.

June 6.—The season is said to be the warmest for a long series of years.

June 13.—The Northern Missionary Society held its twenty-second anniversary on the 12th. Collections and subscriptions amounted to £106.

June 27.—At the Wool Market a great deal of business was done, but not much to the satisfaction of sheep-farmers. Prices were stated as follows:—Cheviot wool per stone of 24 lbs. English, 12s 6d; one or two lots only sold at 14s 6d. Blackfaced sheep wool per double stone, 12s 6d and 13s. Cheviot widders, 12s 6d and 13s. Cheviot ewes, 8s. Blackfaced ewes, 6s. Blackfaced widders, 11s 6d to 13s 6d. Cheviot and blackfaced lambs, 4s 6d.

July 11.—"A number of parties from this town and neighbourhood, with much laudable curiosity, have taken advantage of the opportunity afforded them by the proprietors of the Comet steamboat, and have proceeded to visit the celebrated islands of Staffa and Icolmkill. Many gigs and horses, hired and borrowed, besides the Lochness steamboat, conveyed away all those who had little to detain them; and their return is eagerly looked for, to repeat the oft-told tale of the wonders of these western lands."

July 18.—A paragraph gives an account of the trip from Fort-William to Staffa and Iona. The steamer left Fort-William on a Tuesday and returned on Thursday. The passengers numbered upwards of fifty.

ibid —Died, in India, on the 31st January, in the 37th year of his age, Captain Beauchamp Mackintosh, of the Madras Artillery, second son of the late Colonel William Mackintosh of Millbank. He was an active and intelligent officer, and much respected.

July 25.—A meeting was held in Inverness on the 19th inst. to raise a fund for the relief of the distressed poor in Ireland. There was at this time great suffering in Ireland, and relief funds were raised throughout England and Scotland. Collections were made in the churches.

August 1.—Notice is taken of the progress made by the town of Wick. In 1809 there were not above three houses in Pulteneytown, and in 1822 there were upwards of 400, inhabited by a thriving population. Port Dunbar, below the old town of Wick, had also been formed, with an excellent harbour.

August 15.—The visit of King George IV. to Scotland was exciting widespread interest. Loyal addresses were voted by the counties and chief towns. It is stated in this issue that "a tail of sixty-five Highlanders have gone from Sutherlandshire to attend on Lord Gower, who will appear in his Majesty's Court in Edinburgh as representing the Earl of Sutherland." Other chiefs and clans sent detachments.

August 22.—An account is given of the arrival and reception of the King in Edinburgh, and of a levee and Court held at Holyrood Palace. —The same number records the death of the Marquis of Londonderry, better known in history as Lord Castlereagh. His mind had become unhinged, and he died by his own hand.

September 2.—The anniversary of the Northern Missionary Society was held at Tain on the 29th ult. Collections and contributions amounted to £92 18s 2d.

September 19.—A letter draws attention to a bill which was passed at the close of the session, reducing the duty on barilla to less than one-half of what it had been for many years. The writer pointed out what a disastrous effect this would have on the manufacture of kelp in the western islands, and the misery which the people would suffer. "A thriving population must be destroyed to gratify a few individuals, and when no remedy will be effectual, Government will feel the consequences that have been stated." The counties interested were urged to petition against the reduction of the duty, which was not to take effect until the following January.

October 3.—A full report appears of the proceedings at the Michaelmas Head Court, when the reduction of the duty on barilla was discussed. Mr Charles Grant, M.P., was present, and explained the proceedings of the Government and the House in detail. The value of kelp

was in the first instance affected by the reduction of the duties on salt; and then suddenly a bill was introduced to reduce the duty on barilla, just because the salt duties had been diminished, and this had laid the basis for the further claim. Mr Grant said he and other Scottish members had strongly represented to the Government and the House of Commons what consequences would follow from the above measures to the people of the Highlands and Islands. The alteration of the Salt Duties, however, was in itself a most beneficial measure, and in carrying this into effect neither Government nor Parliament could be induced to consider local interests. The meeting adopted the following resolution:—"That a Committee be appointed to consider the Act for reducing the duty on barilla and for drawing up a petition to Parliament for its repeal or modification, as it is directly calculated to throw idle a large body of the population of the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, who must become a burden on the country or starve, unless the duty on barilla is reduced."

October 10.—The Northern Meeting was held the previous week. The attendance was thinner than usual, but the proceedings were carried out with the customary success. Following the Meeting is an account of Highland games held under the presidency of Glengarry at Dunaincroy. These games do not seem to have formed part of the programme of the Meeting, but the management apparently assisted them with funds. The report is couched in an entertaining style, making fun of Glengarry and of the sports. Glengarry, it is said, presided in all his glory, and had the field almost wholly to himself, "the other judges probably conceiving themselves ill qualified to decide in matters which lay altogether between the chief and the gentlemen of his tail." The sports included a foot race of eight miles, and the report has it that four of the runners, who came in first, arrived at the goal in the costume of Adam. Time, 50 minutes. Another item was to lift a boulder 18 stone weight, and throw it over a bar five feet from the ground. The feat was accomplished by "a mere stone mason," after having foiled all the other "pretty men." The most remarkable feature, however, was the tearing of three cows limb from limb after they had been felled and stunned by the blow of a sledge-hammer. The dissection of the poor cows was far from easy. "Even the most expert of the operators took

from four to five hours in rugging and riving, tooth and nail, before they brought off the limbs of one cow. This achievement was paid at the rate of five guineas per joint, so that we hope this rise in the value of black cattle will make the Glengarry men some small amends for the fall of ewes and widders at Falkirk Tryst, lately noticed by their chief." The report is written in this sarcastic vein. It is evident that no love was lost between the Editor and Glengarry.

October 24.—The opening of the Caledonian Canal from sea to sea is recorded in this issue. "At ten o'clock yesterday morning the Lochness steam yacht, accompanied by two smacks, departed from the Locks of Muirtown on the first voyage through the Canal, amidst the loud and enthusiastic cheering of a great concourse of people and the firing of cannon. The morning was peculiarly favourable, although rather calm. There was scarcely a breath of wind to disperse the smoke, which ascended unbroken after the firing of the guns. The banks of the Canal were crowded with spectators, a great number of whom accompanied the party from the Muirtown Locks to the Bridge of Bught. The band of the Inverness-shire Militia went on board at Dochgarroch Lock, and immediately played the national air of 'God save the King.'" Among the gentlemen on board the steambot were the Right Hon. Charles Grant, M.P.; the Hon. William Fraser, Mr Grant of Waternish, Mr Fraser of Lovat, Mr Fraser of Inchcoulter, Mr Mackenzie of Kilcoy, Mr Mackenzie, yr. of Gairloch; Provost Robertson of Aultnaskiach; Mr Fraser of Fingask, Mr Fraser of Culduthel, Mr Inglis of Kingsmills, Mr Fraser of Torbreck, Bailies Simpson, Cumming, and Smith; Mr Edwards, solicitor; Mr Johnstone; Mr Cameron, yr. of Letterfinlay; Captain Edward Fraser, Mr Davidson and Mr Hughes, of the Canal. On the way they were joined by Redcastle, Foyers, Balnain, Glenmoriston, Glengarry, and many other proprietors. In passing Dochfour the steamer fired a salute, which was answered by a round of fire-arms and loud cheering.

Ibid.—"Died, at Glenalbert, on the estate of Dalguise, Perthshire, on Sunday, the 22nd ult., in her 100th year, Mrs Margaret Low, widow of the late James Steuart, Esq. of Tulloch, near Blair. Her husband was a captain in one of the Athole regiments, under Lord George Murray, and carried the Royal Standard of Prince Charles Edward at the battle of



Culloden in 1746. Of that unfortunate Prince, Mrs Steuart had a perfect recollection, and till within a few days of her death spoke with the fondness of long-cherished reminiscence, and with the accuracy of a mind and memory perfectly entire, of his dress, manner, and appearance. It was at Dunkeld, on his way to Edinburgh, in September 1745, that she had seen the Prince, and presented a pair of brogues to his Royal Highness, of which, to her, momentous occurrence she had a complete remembrance. After the forfeiture of Mr Steuart's estate, he retired to the village of Glenalbert, and died there in 1807, at the advanced age of 96. His widow continued to occupy the same humble cottage, and to live in respected retirement on the small part of their fortune, which had been saved, until the day of her death."

November 7.—A remittance of £300 was received from Mr John Stewart, Bombay, to account of subscriptions in support of the Society for educating the poor in the Highlands. Mr Charles Grant, M.P., gave £50 for the same object.

Ibid.—"Agricultural reports for many of the Scottish counties have appeared for October. They all represent the state of agricultural affairs in as deplorable a light as possible."

Ibid.—A biographical sketch appears of Mr Thomas Mackenzie of Applecross, M.P. for the county of Ross, who had died recently in London. Mr Mackenzie was an accomplished man, possessing talents and endowments of a high order, but suffered from a delicate constitution. "In the course of the few years he had been in Parliament, he had acquired a station and influence among the representatives of Scotland, which few at any period since the Union had ever possessed." Mr Mackenzie died unmarried, and was succeeded by a sister. The date of his death is given incorrectly in the late Mr Mackenzie's History of the Clan—one of the few errors in that carefully-compiled volume. The year is given there as 1827, whereas, as we see, it was 1822.

Ibid.—The same number contains a biographical sketch of the Rev. Dr Thomas Ross, parish minister of Kilmonivaig, who died on 15th October. He was a native of Fearn, in Ross-shire, licensed by the Presbytery of Tain in 1775, and ordained to Kilmonivaig in 1776. Marischal College, Aberdeen, conferred on him the degree of D.D. in 1818. Dr Ross was married to a daughter of Fassifearu, a niece of Lochiel of the '45, and had a large family of sons and daughters. One of his daughters became the wife of Patrick Robertson, Lord of

Session. Dr Ross went to Lochaber at a time when the people, though bold and brave, were uncultivated and little disposed to religion. As a native of Ross-shire, he was at first regarded as an intruder. "Soon, however, was every prejudice removed, and the warmest affection and sincerest respect called forth by the manly and judicious conduct of the young minister. Though not tall nor particularly athletic, Mr Ross possessed personal strength and agility which made him absolutely invincible. Long has it been the familiar boast in Lochaber that no man ever saw him laid on his back. One of his first acts of pastoral duty was to trip up the heels of a bully who knew no standard of merit but stability of limbs and strength of arm. Having obtained the respect and confidence of his people, he became eminently successful in impressing their minds and influencing their conduct by the great principles of Christian equity and benevolence." The writer goes on to say that never did clergyman unite so much zeal for religion with such unbounded charity towards those who differed from him. Envy and resentment were utter strangers to his spirit. Some striking peculiarities, however, marked his character. "He was what in the Highlands is significantly called clannish. Not only was every Ross presumed to be meritorious till he was proved worthless, but his worthlessness was of a better order than the unalleviated demerit of less virtuous names. The family, the history, the residence of the chief were hallowed beyond anything in Greek or Roman story. The Camerons ranked next. The Macdonalds, the illustrious Lords of the Isles, had been in early history allied with the Earls of Ross, and therefore received the partial favour of Dr Ross, of Kilmonivaig. The Mackenzies were worse than heathens, for they robbed or defrauded the name of Ross of almost all its territory. Yet some of the most valued friends of the Doctor had the misfortune to bear the obnoxious name. He hated only the Clan." The date of Dr Ross's birth is not given, but it is stated that he lived the full measure of fourscore in entire vigour of mind and body.

November 18.—An extract is published from a report by the Rev. D. Fraser, of Kirkhill, one of the secretaries of the Society for the Education of the Poor. The Society was doing excellent work. One clergyman mentioned that in a certain district of his parish, out of a population of 600, only 8 persons could read anything some years ago, and that now 240 could read the Gaelic with ease, while there

was no family without a Bible. "If anything," adds the report, "could be said to be painful, it was the manifest proof before one's eyes of the existence of extreme poverty and wretchedness. The immediate sources of it were the failure of the crop last year, and of the herring fishing this season; but it was supposed to have a more permanent source in the excess of the population over the means of subsistence." Since the finishing of the roads in the Highlands, there was no stated labour, and the fishing was exceedingly precarious. In one district, before the potato crop ripened, hundreds of people had to support themselves on shell-fish, collected from the rocky shore. Another district was scourged by fever, brought on by poverty and want of food. "It was mentioned by several intelligent persons of the country that they believed that the state of some districts in Skye and the neighbouring coasts was just as wretched as Ireland was represented to be during the late scarcity, although the people bore it quietly and made shift to exist. The effect of this poverty was manifest in the pallid looks and tattered garments of the poor children in the schools."

**Ibid.**—The Magistrates and Council of Inverness were served on the 9th inst. with copies of a summons of reduction and declarator, at the instance of Jonathan Watson, weaver; John Maclean, carpenter; and James Cameron, coppersmith, concluding for the reduction and annulment of the last election of Magistrates and councillors made under the authority of a Privy Council Warrant. The summons bore that no new legal or valid election could take place except by a poll of the whole burgesses of a disfranchised burgh; and that therefore the warrant of the Privy Council was illegal, and absolutely null and void.

December 12.—Lord Cawdor presented the Rev. Mr Campbell, the minister of Dores, to the Church and Parish of Croy, vacant by the death of the Rev. Mr Calder.

December 26.—On the 20th inst., Sir James W. Mackenzie of Scatwell was unanimously elected member of Parliament for the county of Ross. The election took place at Tain. Sir Hector Mackenzie of Gairloch was in the chair, and the nominators were Mr Mackenzie of Kilcove and Mr Macleod of Geanies. A party of a hundred afterwards dined in the Mason Hall.

## No. XVIII.

The disputed settlement at Kiltarlity continued to excite interest in 1823, and another case occurred in the parish of Croy, which led to several arrests and punishment. In the first half of the year there was a heavy snow-storm, which affected the Highland Road less than other parts of the country. The restoration of the burgh franchise to Inverness excited discussion, and there was an amendment of the law affecting distilleries, made in the hope of putting an end to smuggling. The extent to which illicit traffic was carried on is shown by the fact that at a Justice of Peace Court in Inverness nearly four hundred persons were fined either for making spirits or selling them without a licence.

The death of Charles Grant, on the 31st of October 1823, brought to a close a remarkable career. Mr Mackay in his *History of Urquhart* traces his lineage, and there is a pretty full account of his life in the *Dictionary of National Biography*. Mr Grant was descended from a younger branch of the Grants of Shewglie. His mother was a daughter of Donald Machean, tenant of Aldourie, where the boy was born. His father, Alexander Grant, was out in the '45 and was known as the Swordsman. He was wounded at Culloden on the very day of his son's birth. After a successful career in India, Mr Grant returned to this country, where he acquired fresh reputation as a Director and as Chairman of the East India Company. He represented the county of Inverness in Parliament from 1802 to 1818, and did much to promote Highland interests. Mr Grant was married to Jane, daughter of Thomas Fraser, younger son of the family of Balnain, and left two sons, who acquired distinction, namely, Charles, Lord Glenelg, who was member for the county of Inverness for many years, and Sir Robert Grant, who represented the Inverness Burghs for a time, and was in his later years Governor of Bombay.\*

*From the "Inverness Courier."*

1823.

January 9.—On the application of Sir James Dunbar of Boath, his Majesty's cruiser, the Cherokee, was sent to the Inverness Roads to receive on board Mr Adam, the Rector of the Academy,

\* Note B.—The Anglo-Indian Grants.

in order to ascertain the practicability of certain observations at sea. The arrival of the vessel excited great interest. The Cherokee entered the Caledonian Canal, and lay in the basin at Muirtown, "being the first of his Majesty's ships which has passed through the locks of that great national work." Mr Adam went on board and carried out his observations.

*Ibid.*—Died, at Dumfries, on the 17th ult., aged 65, Mr William Haig. He had been fourteen years teacher in the Inverness Academy, and 18 years teacher in Dumfries. Mr Haig was an accomplished man, versed in the Greek, Latin, and French languages.

January 16.—Three men were tried at the High Court of Justiciary charged with having assaulted the porter of the Caledonian Coach Office at Inverness at the gate of a lodging-house in Church Street, and with having robbed him of a trunk containing bills and papers. The jury convicted two of the prisoners, but recommended them to mercy. The Judge sentenced the prisoners to be executed at Inverness, but promised to forward the jury's recommendation to the proper quarter. The sentence was afterwards commuted to transportation.

January 23.—There was a very heavy snow-storm at this time, general over the kingdom. It was noted as singular that the Highland road from Perth to Inverness was open, while the coast road was almost impassable. The mails to the North of Inverness were carried on horseback.

*Ibid.*—Died, at his residence, the Barracks, at the head of Loch-Rannoch, on the 17th ult., in the 82nd year of his age, Colonel Alexander Robertson of Strowan, chief of Clan Donnachie. In his youth he served in the Scots Brigade in Holland, and frequently distinguished himself in fighting the battles of the States General. On the restoration of the forfeited estates in 1784, he came to Scotland and took possession of his inheritance. Soon afterwards he went to America as Major in the Duke of Hamilton's Regiment. "Tired of the bustle of the tented field, Colonel Robertson returned to his native hills to spend the remainder of his life in retirement, and in exerting his influence and his means in promoting the welfare of his clansmen, by whom he was regarded as a father." His remains were interred with imposing ceremony, the coffin being carried to the grave by 12 men of the name of Robertson.

February 6.—At an Inverness County meeting,

communications were read from the proprietors of Kelp estates on the Western Islands, and on the coasts of Shetland, protesting against the late reduction of the duty on foreign barilla. The meeting drew up a petition to Parliament on the subject. Mr Fraser of Culbokie stated that the last county meeting had come to the resolution of postponing for some time the consideration of all proposals and plans for erecting a new jail and court-house, on account of the heavy local assessments and the great agricultural distress prevailing. Plans for the improvement of the existing Court-house were submitted, and referred to a Committee. The meeting had also under consideration a bill for maintaining the Highland roads and bridges by means of tolls instead of county assessments. Resolutions were adopted with reference to agricultural distress and the laws relating to distilleries.

February 14.—“Eight of the ten mails due us from the South have arrived this morning.” The delay was caused by the great snow-storm.

February 27.—There was strong opposition to the settlement of the Rev. Alexander Campbell, of Dores, as parish minister of Croy. The new minister and a party of friends were met on Sunday by a crowd of parishioners posted behind the Church-yard wall, and were driven off. After “a short but sharp conflict,” they retired to the village of Tornagrain. “There they not only rallied, but actually turned upon the too rash advanced guard of the enemy, and made prisoners of two women and three men.” These persons and others afterwards arrested were examined before the Sheriff and committed for trial.

March 6.—A decided improvement in agricultural prices is recorded after a long depression.

March 13.—“We understand that Mrs Gibson has resigned the superintendence of the Church Street Boarding School for young ladies, and that it is no longer the intention of the Magistrates to make any allowance from the town funds to any one that may succeed her in that situation.”

March 20.—The Right Hon Charles Grant had been appointed Vice-President of the Board of Trade. He had accordingly to come to the constituency for re-election.

March 27.—The Presbytery of Nairn met the previous Thursday, when objections were heard against the presentee to Croy. The debate lasted nearly four hours. The Presbytery resolved to refer the case to the Synod of Moray for advice.

April 3.—Copies were circulated of the bill brought into Parliament “for erecting toll-gates and levying tolls on certain roads and bridges in the Highlands of Scotland.” The “*Courier*” explains why such a measure was necessary. The roads could not possibly be supported under the provisions of the existing Act. In the county of Inverness the outlay for 1822 amounted to £2,098; and the maximum assessment provided by the Act, with the Parliamentary allowance, amounted to no more than £901 8s 8d, leaving a deficiency of £1196 11s 4d. In the county of Ross there was a similar deficiency of £673 7s 1d; in Sutherland of £38 8s 11d; in Caithness of £119; and in Argyll of £52 16s 9d. “All these additional sums fell to be equally divided between the counties and the Commissioners, and the circumstance has been the cause of just complaint from both parties.”

*ibid.*—The same issue contains the report of a debate in the House of Commons on a motion by Lord Archibald Hamilton for production of the Privy Council warrant under which the elective franchise of the burgh of Inverness had been restored. The motion was rejected by a majority of 18, the numbers being 51 to 33. In his speech, Lord Archibald went over the circumstances which had led to the suspension of the municipal constitution of Inverness for several years. “At the end of last year,” he added, “it had pleased his Majesty, with the advice of his Ministers, to appoint, by his special warrant, particular persons to elect councillors for this burgh. Under that warrant the same persons had been returned to office who had three years before been turned out by the sentence of the Court of Law.” He also mentioned that in the original action to reduce the election of 1817, the petitioning burgesses had been compelled to pay the whole expenses, amounting to £1400, while the Magistrates had defended the action at the expense of the burgh. The Lord Advocate, in opposing Lord Archibald’s motion, said that the warrant which he asked for was a warrant granted not by her Majesty’s Ministers, but by the Privy Council of Great Britain, “authorising these Magistrates to exercise the right previously exercised by those who had preceded them—that of choosing their own successors in office”; and he contended that in issuing the warrant a wise and sound discretion had been exercised. An editorial article on the question recalls the original dispute, and concludes as follows:—“The sett of the burgh of Inver-

ness confines the eligibility of Magistrates and Councillors to trafficking merchants or maltmen. As there are now no maltmen, of course the eligibility is confined to traffickers. They alone are qualified to sit at the Council Board and deliberate on the common weal. The late Magistrates ventured to extend the privilege a little further, by electing three persons, who had every qualification but that arising from shop-keeping traffick. Immediately the hue and cry was raised by the very persons who are perpetually complaining of the narrow selfishness of the burgh system. One might imagine that the offence of the Magistrates had been to confine the eligibility within narrower bounds than the sett prescribed; but it will scarce be credited that the offence lay in extending the eligibility."

*Ibid.*—A paragraph announces that arrangements had been made for the re-erection and accommodation of the public in the extensive premises called Geddes's Buildings in High Street, by throwing what was formerly occupied as an Athenæum into a billiard room and news-room. Offices were to be established in the same building for coaches and steamboats. A subsequent paragraph says that the management was continued as before.

April 10.—"A steamboat for the Caledonian Canal navigation is now building upon the new construction on the banks of the Canal near Kinmylies. It is proposed to be about sixty feet long, and will be finished in the course of two months."

April 17.—The Right Hon. Charles Grant was unanimously re-elected member of Parliament for the county of Inverness. His election was moved by Mr Grant of Rothiemurchus, and seconded by Mr Baillie of Dochfour. The presiding officer, Sheriff Gilzean, reported that it had been impossible to make intimation of the writ in four parishes of the Long Island on account of the high winds and tempestuous seas which prevailed for eight days together. Affidavits on the point were produced, and a minute recorded. It seemed that the same thing had occurred in 1782 at the time of the election of General Fraser of Lovat. On that occasion the matter was passed over in silence, but it was now considered proper to say that all that was possible to be done had been done, and that therefore the provisions of the law had been substantially complied with. The newly-elected member was not present, but his father entertained a party of seventy to dinner in the Northern Meeting Rooms.



*Ibid.*—Great regret is expressed at the death of Dr M. T. Bethune, Inverness, son of the late minister of Dornoch, who had been cut off at the beginning of a promising career as a medical practitioner. He is described as “one of our most distinguished citizens.”

April 24.—It was announced that a reduction of duties on Scottish whisky would take place on 11th October, but that in the meantime Scottish distillers as well as Irish were to be allowed to bond the spirits without previous payment of the duty.

*Ibid.*—At the Synod of Moray, held at Forbes, great interest was taken in the cases of opposed settlement from the parishes of Kiltarlity and Croy. The spokesmen for the Presbytery of Inverness expressed “their perfect readiness to settle the Rev. Colin Fraser in the parish of Kiltarlity under protest that in doing so they would be, nevertheless, at liberty to bring to a close their process of declarator in the Civil Court.” This was acquiesced in by the Synod. The case of Croy led to long debate, but it was ultimately carried unanimously that the settlement of the Rev. Mr Campbell should take place in July.

*Ibid.*—At the Circuit Court of Inverness several persons were indicted for riotous and disorderly conduct in obstructing the entrance of Mr Campbell to the church of Croy. Counsel for the defence challenged twenty of the jurymen summoned for the trial, and the Crown Agent challenged two. This reduced the number of jurymen to thirteen, so that the Court had to desert the diet. The prosecutor, however, intimated that he was determined to try the cases, and would bring them before the High Court of Justiciary in Edinburgh.

May 8.—“The Senatus Academicus of King’s College, Aberdeen, have conferred the degree of D. D. on the Rev. Angus Mackintosh, minister of Tain. The friends of Dr Mackintosh must feel highly gratified by the unanimous and very handsome manner in which this deserved distinction has been conferred upon him by the University of which he was an alumnus.”

*Ibid.*—“Died, at Brahan Castle, on Thursday the 24th April, the Hon. Caroline Mackenzie, third daughter of the late Lord Seaforth; deeply and universally lamented. Her untimely death was occasioned by an accident in a low carriage, in company with her sister, which thus terminated in the prime of life her unobtrusive, though eminently useful and virtuous, career of Christian piety and benevolence.”

May 15.—At the anniversary meeting of the In-

verness Bible Society, it was intimated that since the former anniversary a sum of £180 had been remitted to the parent Society, and about four hundred Bibles and Testaments distributed by the Depository. In addition to the annual subscriptions, contributions amounting to £106 were intimated from the Inverness Juvenile Society and from district branches.

*Ibid.*—The settlement of the Rev. Colin Fraser in the parish of Kiltarlity was carried out on the 8th inst. without incident beyond the reading of a notarial protest in terms of the agreement arrived at by the Synod.

*Ibid.*—Died, at the Manse of Uig, on the 1st of May, after a short illness, the Rev. Hugh Munro, minister of that parish, in the 76th year of his age and 46th of his ministry. A high tribute is paid to his character, which mentions, among other virtues, that "he was an utter stranger to the malignity of party spirit."

May 22.—Decision was given by the Court of Session on the question raised by a majority of the Presbytery of Inverness in connection with the presentation to Kiltarlity. The Presbytery contended that the presentation granted to Mr Colin Fraser by Lovat's Commissioner was null in respect of Lovat's own religious faith; and, secondly, that the right of presenting had fallen to the Presbytery through the delay of a presentation by a qualified patron. The defender maintained three pleas: 1st, that the Presbytery stood committed by having actually sustained the presentation in question before it bethought itself of opposition and resistance; 2nd, that even if the presentation by Lovat's Commissioner was invalid, the right to present by resolution would pass, not to the Presbytery but to the Crown, in terms of the very statute on which the Presbytery itself founded; and 3rd, that at all events the said statute of Queen Anne, by which Catholic patrons are restricted in certain cases from exercising the rights of presentation, did not apply to this case, Mr Fraser of Lovat having neither "signed a presentation" nor refused any test "tendered to him," which are the only cases or circumstances to which the penal statute of Queen Anne refers. The Court (one Judge differing) held that the two preliminary defences were amply sufficient for the defender's protection, and therefore that it was unnecessary to decide the remaining point. Accordingly their lordships dismissed the action at the instance of the Presbytery, and found the Presbytery liable in expenses.

May 29.—“James Cumming, millwright, died here last week at the advanced age of 101. His wife, aged 90, is now living here. Cumming was a native of Morayshire, being born at Mundole, near Altyre, and had the merit of first executing many excellent meal and thrashing mills in the Northern Counties upon the most improved construction. He had a great genius for mechanics, and there remain many specimens of his curious workmanship.”

Ibid.—“Died, at the Manse of Glenshiel, on Sunday the 11th inst., having on that day completed his 75th year, the Rev. John Macrae, 46 years minister of that parish. A man whose vigorous powers of mind, pure integrity, and great warmth of heart, secured him the love and esteem of all who knew him.”—“At Nairn, on the 22nd ult., John Gunn, Esq., Sheriff-Substitute of that county. He was a sound and an upright judge, an honourable man, a sincere friend, and an affectionate relative.”

June 5.—“At a Justice of Peace Court held here [at Inverness] on Tuesday last for the punishment of offenders against the Excise Laws, nearly four hundred persons from the districts of the Aird, Strathglass, and Urquhart, were convicted and fined in small sums. Those detected in illicit distillation were generally fined in twenty shillings each; and for selling spirits without a licence the general fines were four guineas.”

Ibid.—“Married, at Devonshire House, London, on the 26th ult., Earl Gower, eldest son of the Marquis of Stafford, to Lady Harriet Howard, daughter of Lord Morpeth.” The event was celebrated with great rejoicings in the county of Sutherland.

Ibid.—The Society for the Suppression of Begging held its annual meeting in the Town Hall. Subscriptions and donations amounted to £251, but the Society had incurred debt to the amount of £24. Subscriptions in the Landward part of the parish had fallen off. The number of persons receiving aid was 114.

Ibid.—At the General Assembly the petition of the Rev. John Fraser, minister of Kiltarlity, was considered. The substance of his complaint was as follows:—“The Presbytery of Inverness delayed the settlement of the petitioner till May 1823, although they were directed to induct him with all convenient speed. A great majority of the members of Presbytery protested against the settlement, and not only caused their protest to be recorded, but also to be read in the Church of

Kiltarlity during divine service and on the day of his settlement; and had caused it also to be published in the public newspapers, which circumstance, the petitioner complained, had materially influenced his usefulness and respectability as a minister." The Presbytery did not put in an appearance, and the majority who were concerned in the proceedings were enjoined to appear personally at the bar of the next General Assembly.

June 12.—The Northern Missionary Society held their twenty-third anniversary in the High Church, Inverness. Collections and subscriptions amounted to £88 9s.

Ibid.—On Thursday last the foundation-stone of Anderson's Institution for the education of the poor children of Forres, Rafford, and Kinloss, was laid in Forres with the usual ceremonies. "This Institution is founded and will be supported from funds left by the late Jonathan Anderson, Esq., of Glasgow, a native of Forres, who also mortgaged some fee grounds in Glasgow, which yield about £100 sterling per annum for the benefit of poor householders in Inverness."

June 19.—The trial of four men and one woman for rioting at Croy in connection with the presentation of the new minister to the pastorate came off on the 9th inst. before the High Court of Justiciary. The charge against one of the men was found not proven; all the others were found guilty. A petition was laid before the Court from Rev. Mr Campbell, praying the Court to inflict as lenient a punishment as possible, as the prisoners had been betrayed into error, and the bad spirit was rapidly subsiding in the parish. One of the prisoners was sentenced to a month's imprisonment, and the others, including the woman, to two months, in the jail of Inverness. A second woman who had been indicted did not appear.

Ibid.—On Tuesday, 17th inst., Thomas Alexander Fraser of Lovat (grandfather of the present Lord Lovat) attained his majority. The occasion was celebrated with rejoicings throughout the Lovat estates. Bonfires and entertainments marked every district. "The view from Beaufort presented to the assembled company at the Castle one of the finest scenes that can be conceived. The summit of every hillock, as well as of every higher mountain, started into a blaze, and the whole line of country over the brown heather and along the valleys seemed covered with light and gladness." At Beaufort about one hundred gentlemen sat

down to dinner, for which tables were spread in the Court. The health of Lovat was proposed by the Marquis of Huntly, and pledged with great enthusiasm. At Foyers, Mr Fraser, the proprietor, had a bullock killed and distributed with ale and whisky among his tenantry and neighbours. A splendid bonfire was kindled on Cairnderg, a mile above the house of Foyers.

June 19 and 26.—On the first date it is stated that the arrivals for the Wool Market began on Monday, and yet till the time of going to press (the paper appeared on Thursday) no definite business had been done. The writer complained that the business, which towards the end was generally concluded in one or two hours, occupied many persons from Monday till Friday, and this delay exposed the parties to much expense and inconvenience. In the issue of the 26th, the reporter speaks of the character of the market and of the prices. "Five or six wool staplers and dealers in sheep from the North of England and South of Scotland come to treat with three or four hundred respectable individuals; and such is their mutual confidence that bargains for wool and sheep to the amount of £150,000 and upwards are concluded even without a sample. Last week our information goes to say that good Cheviot widders brought each 18s 6d (clad score). This we believe to be the highest price obtained; and widders of the same description, though of inferior quality, were sold at 14s 6d. Blackfaced widders fetched from 12s to 16s; Cheviot ewes from 7s to 10s 6d; and blackfaced ewes from 5s to 6s 6d. Blackfaced hogs brought from 7s to 10s; and wedder lambs of the same kind from 4s to 5s 3d. The sales in Cheviot hogs and lambs were very few—the former brought 8s 6d and the latter 6s. Cheviot wool was sold so low as 9s per stone of 24 lbs., and the highest price was 10s 6d. The coarse wool from blackfaced sheep sold at from 10s to 11s 6d per double stone, or the stone of 43 lbs. In most of these purchases a reference was made of 6d per stone of wool, and 6d on each sheep, to be decided by the aspect of the markets, and the prices that may be given in the South before September, which is the usual time of delivery. One very important branch of this market is the purchase of smearing materials, and we understand that one contract of very considerable amount (upwards of £1500 worth) was concluded much to the satisfaction of both parties."

June 26.—An article on the distillery laws says that a remission of duty was to be made to an extent quite unexpected, and likely to have the most beneficial results. The effect of the alterations, it was anticipated, would “most effectually quash smuggling.” One of the resolutions adopted by the House of Commons was as follows:—“That it is expedient that every distiller or maker of spirits in Scotland and Ireland respectively should be permitted to warehouse the spirits made or distilled by such distiller without payment of the duty of Excise chargeable thereon; and that the duties of Excise chargeable on such spirits shall be payable and paid on their being taken out of warehouse for home consumption.”

July 10.—“On Thursday last the Rev. Mr Campbell was admitted minister of Croy, in presence of a very respectable congregation. There was happily no occasion for the interference of the Sheriff or his officers, who attended, no interruption having been offered to the solemn services of the day.”

July 17.—“The celebrated Miss Edgeworth arrived here last week. During a short stay she visited the Falls of Kilmorack.”

July 31.—The Act for the Maintenance of Highland Roads and Bridges was laid before a county meeting. “The former bill left it optional for the counties to have tolls; the present proceeds a step further, and gives the option either to have tolls or to increase their assessment; and its principal feature is to give option and to avoid compulsion.” It was conceded to the wishes of the Northern Counties that the mail coach should not be chargeable with any toll whatever, and that cattle might travel from Bighouse in the heights of Sutherlandshire, westward and southwards to Fort-Angustus and so over the Corryarrick Road to Perthshire, without payment of toll, except 10d per score of black cattle and 5d per score for sheep and lambs, payable once at the Pitmain Bridge over the Spey. The counties had not as yet resolved to establish general tolls. A bill was also laid on the table for the building of additional places of worship in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland out of public moneys in the Court of Exchequer, the sum not to exceed £10,000 in any one year, and not exceeding in all the sum of £50,000. The object of this measure was to provide additional churches for large parishes.

August 7.—Died, at Deldriggan of Glenmoriston, on 5th July, Mr Archibald Grant, aged 87 years. His married life extended to 65 years,

and his wife survived him. His remains were followed to the grave by 65 children and grandchildren.

August 14.—“Married, at Cossy Hall, in the county of Norfolk, Thomas Alexander Fraser, Esq. of Lovat, to Charlotte Georgina D. Jer-ningham, eldest daughter of Sir George Jer-ningham, Baronet.” In the next issue there is an account of meetings held on the Lovat estates to celebrate the happy event.

August 28.—“Died, at Quebec, on the 29th June, Laughlin Smith, Seigneur of St Denis and La Pocatiere. Mr Smith was a native of Inverness, Scotland, and is supposed to be upwards of 100 years of age. He served as a private in General Wolfe’s army at the taking of Quebec.”

September 4.—The Northern Missionary Society held its twenty-third anniversary meeting at Tain on 27th August. Collections, subscrip-tions, and donations were intimated amounting to £94 18s.

*Ibid.*—The new Distillery Act is summarised. “We find some differences existing between the present Act and the substance of it as pub-lished in an abstract in the end of June last. In that abstract it was stated that the duty on every gallon of spirits made from malted corn was 2s 6d, at a strength of 10 per cent. over proof; but instead of that we now find that the duty is 2s on every gallon hydrometer proof. Distillers are allowed to warehouse spirits without payment of duty, the strength of such spirits to be either 25 or 11 per cent. over proof; and where a sale of spirits is re-alised the quantity taken out of the warehouse, when for home consumption, must not be less than the content of the original cask (100 gallons), upon which the duty is only then payable; and a warehouse rent for report of the revenue is chargeable at the rate of one penny per 40 gallons a week. Distillers from malted corn must produce two gallons of spirits from every bushel of malt, or 12 gallons proof spirits from the standard of Linlithgow boll.” After mentioning other points, the article concludes:—“The spirit duty on eight pints Scots (or, as this quantity is called, the Scots gallon) amounts to 8s on proof spirits, which is about 12 per cent. stronger than is commonly retailed in this country; and the malt duty on the same quantity at the same strength is 1s, making 9s of spirit and malt duty on eight Scots pints. The former duties on the same quantity amounted to 22s, thus giving a reduction of 13s per Scots gallon.

From the weakness of the wash allowed to be used, joined with the liberty of warehousing the spirits, in a short time there is no doubt that a superior spirit can be produced; and the effect of the whole is that we find travellers for spirit dealers in the South are at this moment offering to supply our market here, by the end of October, with spirits at 5s per English gallon, or at the rate of 2s 6d per Scots pint."

September 25.—At the municipal election this year, James Grant of Bugbt was elected Provost, Mr Robertson of Altnaskiach remaining a member of Council.

October 2.—"It would appear from the population returns made up from the Government abstracts of 1801, 1811, and 1821, that the Highland counties of Ross and Cromarty present the most numerous instances of longevity in proportion to their population—in every 2156 there being one above 100 years, and one above 80 years in every 93. Comparing the population of England and Scotland in this respect the number above 100 returned from the former country is only 168 out of a population of 11,261,437; whereas from the latter the number is 102 in a population of 2,093,459."

*Ibid.*—On the previous Monday the Constables of the town were sworn into office for the ensuing year, in presence of the Magistrates, when Provost Grant addressed them at some length on the duties and importance of their office. Sergt.-Major John Mackenzie, Castle Street, was elected head constable, and each constable was furnished with a copy of instructions and a baton. These constables were a force distinct from the police and town officers, and were instructed to co-operate with them in preventing crimes and offences. Their authority did not extend beyond the Royalty, and on duty they had always to carry their baton. A copy of their instructions is published in this issue. We reproduce the two following:—"The character and good order of the town are so much concerned in a due and strict observance of decency and propriety on the Sabbath Day, that the Magistrates require the constables to be particularly careful to correct any improprieties which may occur on that day." "The constables are enjoined to maintain a uniform and exact regard to sobriety, decency, and civility in their own conduct; bearing bad language and even reproach from persons in liquor when they appear to have no bad intentions; and exercising all the humanity compatible with the due and



firm discharge of their duty." After meeting with the constables, the Magistrates disposed of the Common Good of the burgh, which then included the shore dues and anchorage at the harbour, and tolls on the bridges. The shore dues and anchorage came to £620, and the total, including these, to £971 1s.

*Ibid.*—What is called a "new corn market" was opened at Inverness on the previous Tuesday. Upwards of 200 holls of grain were offered for sale. An address to the Inverness Farmers' Society led to the establishment of the market. This address stated that while some farmers had regular customers, the majority had to repair to the streets of Inverness on market days, and diligently look out for customers, sometimes for weeks in vain. "Thus the time passes, necessities accumulate, engagements require to be implemented, and the unfortunate farmer is compelled to treat with the smuggler, the mealmonger, or other individuals on terms highly disadvantageous, but frequently considered by the purchaser as favours bestowed on the seller." Many transactions had also to be "managed in the whisky house, by means of a tippie and a drink. It is quite notorious that many of the buyers will not determine without a dram, and perhaps half-a-dozen may be required to produce the desired effect." To obviate these untoward circumstances, the attempt to establish a new corn market was made. It was proposed to effect the sales by samples; and with the concurrence of the Magistrates a booth was to be erected on the Exchange every Tuesday and Friday from 12 till half-past two o'clock. The samples of grain were to be displayed under the superintendence of an intelligent attendant, who was capable of concluding transactions in the absence of parties. A scale of fees, varying from a penny to sixpence, was to be paid to the attendant.

October 2 and 9.—These issues contain reports of the Northern Meeting. Races were held at Duneacroy.

October 9.—The county meeting at Inverness resolved meantime to support the roads by assessment instead of by tolls. They also adopted a resolution in favour of bringing the mails by the Highland Road from Perth.

November 6.—This issue records the death of Mr Charles Grant, long member for the county of Inverness, in the representation of which he was succeeded by his son. "Mr Grant did business at the India House, on the evening of Thursday last. As he was in the practice of

managing his extensive correspondence during the quiet of the night, it appears that he did not retire to rest till four on Friday morning, about which time he was seized with spasms in the stomach, which at six o'clock terminated his valuable life." The notice proceeds:—"Mr Grant went out in early life to India, with few advantages save those which his own talents and conduct procured for him. The intimate knowledge which he soon acquired of the Company's affairs, his integrity, capacity for business, and that indefatigable perseverance which never left him to his latest hour, soon opened up to him an honourable career. He obtained several situations of great trust in Bengal, which paved the way to the important offices which he afterwards filled at home, as Deputy Chairman and Chairman of the Court of Directors. In 1802 he was chosen member of Parliament for his native county, which he continued to represent till he was succeeded by his son, the present member. Mr Grant was a very kind relation, a zealous friend, and in the kindly and Scottish sense of the phrase, 'a good countryman,' as well as in the more unlimited acceptation of the word. It is mentioned in the London papers that Mr Grant was upwards of 80 years of age. He was in his 78th year, having been born in the memorable year of the Rebellion. He received the then beloved name of Charles from the Jacobite partialities of his family."

*Ibid.*—The same issue records the death of Mr Peter Anderson, solicitor, who was so generally liked and esteemed by his fellow-citizens that his death was felt in Inverness as a private sorrow, as well as lamented as a public loss. "Mr Anderson was still in the prime of life, and of a constitution which promised length of days and the enjoyment of vigorous health. Early yesterday morning he became indisposed, and by seven o'clock he had ceased to live. The frankness of his courtesy, and a facility of benevolence which made him the ready listener to all sorts of grievances, and the ready friend of all sorts of men who were in want of assistance—and these have not been few of late years—formed a character peculiarly calculated to gain on the kindest sympathies of the heart; and we may truly say that as no member of our community was ever more universally liked than Mr Anderson, no one was ever mourned by high and low with grief more unaffected and genuine."

*Ibid.*—Mr Adam, Rector of the Inverness Academy, had just returned from a ten days'

cruise on board the *Clio*. His experiments were meant to determine the situation of a ship by obtaining the altitude of any of the heavenly bodies where the horizon was obscured. The results were said to be more satisfactory than on any former occasion.

December 11.—A county meeting was held at Inverness on the 5th inst., and resolutions were adopted expressing cordial appreciation of the distinguished services of the late Charles Grant during his long connection with the county. Mr J. P. Grant of Rothiemurchus, M.P., was in the chair. The chief resolution bore that “during the last twenty-one years, being the period of the public connection of the late Charles Grant, Esq., with this county, the attention of the Legislature has been directed to the cultivation of the natural advantages of this northern part of the Kingdom, in a greater degree than that which any Government has ever bestowed on a part of its dominions so remote, and contributing so little to its revenue.” Several absent members wrote complaining that too short notice had been given of the meeting, but the attendance numbered nearly forty, and it was resolved to proceed with the business rather than adjourn. The resolutions were adopted with acclamation, and copies were ordered to be transmitted to the Right Hon. Charles Grant, and to be advertised in Inverness, Edinburgh, and London newspapers.

December 25.—On the 17th inst. a General Court of the Directors of the East India Company was held at the East India House. Mr James Smith, M.P., submitted the following motion:—“That this Court taking into consideration the great ability, inflexible integrity, and unremitting attention displayed by the late Charles Grant, Esq., during nearly thirty years as a member of the Executive body, after seventeen years of distinguished service in India, and the many important benefits he has rendered to the Company, by his counsels and experience, and by his constant and strenuous exertions in Parliament and elsewhere, to preserve unimpaired their rights and privileges, and improve the condition of the vast population under their rule, desire to record their deep sense of the loss sustained by the death of this valuable director, who, to the last day of his life, was actively employed in the discharge of his duty, and testify the high admiration in which they hold his talents, character, and services; and therefore that a marble monument be erected to the memory of the

late Charles Grant, Esq, in the Parish Church of St George's, Bloomsbury; and that the Court of Directors be requested to take measures to carry the same into effect." The motion was seconded by Sir Charles Forbes, M.P., and both gentlemen eulogised the character and services of the late Director. The proposal for a monument called forth an amendment, submitted by Mr Hume, M.P. for Montrose, on the ground that there was no precedent for conferring such a distinction. Mr Hume also went over the several points on which the mover grounded his motion, and contended that they were not sufficient to warrant the posthumous honour projected. Mr Elphinstone said that "this Company had lasted above a hundred years, and had employed a number of most able and most honest servants, who went out of life without the commemoration of statues." He admitted it to be true that the Company had erected statues to some who had signalised themselves in their service, but they were to such men as Lord Clive, Admiral Pococke, and others, who had acquired and consolidated their great possessions, and between such men and such services, and the Directors and their duties, there could be no point of comparison. Mr Inpey, who strongly supported the motion, said that he knew the facility with which the hon. member for Montrose could pry into public efforts; his mind, like some optical glasses, was formed for minute discoveries; it was not Mr Hume's fault that he was so constituted, it was rather the vice of his nature, for, in the language of Shakespeare, "It is his nature's plague to pry into abuses." (Loud laughter and cries of "Hear," in which Mr Hume loudly joined). On a division the amendment was rejected by a majority of 54 to 29 votes, and the original motion was then agreed to.

## No. XIX.

In the early part of 1824 there are several interesting entries relating to smuggling and the enforcement of Excise penalties. A strong desire existed to put an end to illicit distillation, but there were obstacles in the way, which are pithily set forth in one of the extracts. The condition of the slaves in the West Indies was at this time before Parliament. Many persons in the North of Scotland were interested in West Indian plantations, and the counties of Ross and Inverness petitioned Government to proceed with caution in making legislative changes.

In the second half of the year the question of Excise penalties on smugglers continued to excite much attention. The Justices of the Peace were exceedingly reluctant to inflict the minimum statutory penalty of £20, but the authorities insisted. In one case from Banffshire where the Justices proved obstinate, the offending smugglers were brought before the Court of Exchequer and subjected to much heavier penalties than if they had been fined by a Justice of Peace Court. This seems to have been intended as an object lesson. It will be observed that the formation of a company to introduce gas and water into Inverness dates from 1824. There are many items of interest in the subjoined notes.

*From the "Inverness Courier."*

1824.

January 8.—At a Justice of Peace Court in Inverness 293 persons were fined for breaches of the licensing laws. From the Beaully district alone there were 178 cases. It was stated that in the Inverness district the fines and arrears of licences amounted to nearly £400.

Ibid.—The Rev. John Macdonald, of Ferrintosh, was at this time interesting himself specially in the Island of St Kilda. He had received the following contributions in aid of buildings to be erected for the accommodation of a missionary and place of worship:—From the students of King's College, Aberdeen, £7; from Aberdeen itself, £30; from Dundee, £19 19s; from Perth, £13 6s 4d.

January 15.—"In ploughing up a field at Leys, near this town, the ploughman found a rod of

pure gold, about 15 inches long, with three sides, each about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an inch in depth. In the middle it is twisted, and terminated by a bend similar to a shepherd's crook, in very rude workmanship. It was purchased at £4 10s by Mr Naughten, jeweller, here, and is now in his possession."

*Ibid.*—"To the admirers of Gaelic poetry it will not be uninteresting to know that in Slochmuic, on the property of the Earl of Seafield, expired in 1746, John Macdonald, otherwise Ian Manntaiche, or John the Stammerer. He had fought in the Stewart cause in 1715, and at the age of four score and three drew his claymore for Prince Charles at the battle of Culloden. He received several wounds, but more than these regretted the loss of his harp, his companion for more than 60 years. He lingered a few weeks after reaching an asylum in Strathspey, and was secretly interred near the spot where he yielded his last breath. His songs have celebrated the race for whose service he lived and died, and the keenest satire and ridicule expresses his indignation and contempt of their opponents. Perhaps there are not any Jacobite stanzas extant more deserving of attention than the compositions of Ian Manntaiche."

January 22.—In this issue there is another paragraph with reference to the gold rod found at the Leys. "Some additional pieces of the same description have since been recovered by Mr Naughten; and on connecting them and inquiring of the labourers as to the manner in which they were found, they seem to have formed one piece of about 18 inches long, and to have been twisted exactly after the fashion of the worm of a corkscrew. It was found in the vicinity of the Druid's Temple at Leys; and a conjecture has been offered by a neighbouring gentleman, who ranks high in his knowledge of these matters, that it is likely to have been used in suspending vessels with incense employed in certain religious rites. This would lead one to suppose that it must have originally belonged to those of the Romish Church, for we do not think that the Druids possessed those refined modes of worship."

*Ibid.*—"We learn that Mr Mactavish, officer of Excise in Braemar, has made a seizure of smuggled whisky of unusual magnitude. For a very long time back it was notorious that large quantities of spirits were manufactured in Glenlivet—now the only district in the Highlands where this illicit and demoralising system is carried on to any great extent—and

that the joint fruits of the smugglers' labour were conveyed to different parts of the low country by bands of people by far too numerous and powerful for any attempt at seizure by a single officer. On this last occasion Mr Mactavish watched the motions of one of these bands, and discovered the concealment where the spirits were deposited the first night of their journey. The smugglers, thinking all quite safe, retired to sleep, when the previous arrangements for the seizure were carried into effect, and when they awoke they found themselves minus twenty Scots ankers of pure Glenlivet." It is singular that the above paragraph should describe Glenlivet as the only place where illicit distillation was carried on "to any great extent," when so many notices had appeared of breaches of the licensing laws, including illicit distillation, in the county of Inverness. Perhaps the writer meant that Glenlivet was the only place where the traffic was conducted on a large scale.

January 29.—A case came on before the Court of Exchequer, under a recent Act respecting the Scots burghs, charging the Magistrates of Nairn, at the instance of three burgesses, with having sold the lands of Hempholes on 7th January, and the lands of Mosshall on 11th March 1823, without duly observing the provisions of the statute. The objection was taken that the production of burgh tickets was not sufficient proof that the plaintiffs had a title to sue. It was contended that the Town Council books could alone be held to be legal evidence. The Court sustained this view, and the plaintiffs were nonsuited. A case brought against the Magistrates of Inverness for letting the lands called the Carse, without duly observing the provisions of the Act, was thrown out on the same ground.

February 12.—A paragraph mentions that a woollen manufactory had recently been established at the Haugh, and was being conducted with success.

February 19.—Notice is taken of a paper by Mr George Anderson, Inverness, read before the Society of Scottish Antiquaries. It gave an account of cairns and circles of stones in the neighbourhood of Inverness, and was accompanied with a map in manuscript and several drawings of the circles described. Mr Anderson suggested the possibility that some at least of these circles had been erected for the administration of justice, and mentioned one in particular which he thought might have been constructed for this purpose. "It consisted

of a double circle of stones, not, as is commonly the case, concentric, but placed in opposition so as to resemble the figure 8. Mr Anderson related some instances of the care with which the neighbours abstain from injuring these relics, particularly the cairns, from a kind of superstitious dread of evil which will happen to the unhallowed disturbers of the dead. He also related a tradition of a farmer who had temerity enough to commit sacrilege on a cairn, and who never afterwards throve."

*Ibid.*—The same issue contains long extracts from a report on smuggling in the Highlands, compiled by the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the collection and management of the Revenue. Most of the points have been already mentioned in these Notes, but some are new. Sir George Mackenzie of Coul spoke of the administration of the law by the Justices of the Peace. "In this country," he said, "scarcely one legal sentence has been passed for many years, as the books of collection will testify. This has happened from no other cause than the law being considered by the Justices as too severe; in consequence of which they have been administering a law of their own." Sir George also observed that there was not a Justice of the Peace who could say that he did not, in his own family, consume illegally-made spirits. Mr Mackenzie of Ardross declared that land-holders had an interest in not carrying the law into effect. "If a gentleman has an estate in the Highlands worth intrinsically £400 per annum, he may set it to smugglers, if there are mosses on it to supply fire, for the purpose of carrying on illicit distillation at five, six, or seven hundred pounds; whereas, if illicit distillation were suppressed, it would immediately fall back to its true value, and he would lose half his income. The interest, therefore, of the proprietor to prevent this is obvious. In like manner the owner of a low country arable farm sells his barley to smugglers at a rate at least one-third higher than he should otherwise obtain for it. Even this year barley has fetched from the smugglers in Ross-shire 30s and 32s per boll, while the licensed distillers have bought theirs from Montrose at 18s to 20s." The report bore that the number of distilleries under the superintendence of the Inverness Collector was only ten, the largest, 200 gallons, the smallest, 47; that the legal distillers were on the decline; that they could not manufacture to sell with profit for less than 11s per gallon of the highest legal strength; that



smuggled whisky was delivered in Inverness at 6s per gallon, 12 per cent. under proof, being a difference of 19 per cent. from the legal whisky, which would make the price of the illegal 7s 2d; that it was sometimes sold at 5s; that the population of Inverness consumed about 1000 gallons per week, of which a very small proportion paid duty. "Seizures of illicit spirit very frequent; always in very small quantities; it is brought in by women in tin vessels, made to fit their shape, and other small vessels; never by carts or horses; deposits made near the town, when it was divided into small quantities." The report mentions only 3 legal distilleries by name, those carried on by Captain Munro of Teaninich, by Captain Fraser at Brackla, and by Mr Harper in the county of Sutherland (probably Clynelish). The Report had been drawn up some time before its publication, and formed the foundation of the new distillery laws of 1823.

February 26.—"William Brodie, Esq. of Brodie, has been appointed by the King to be the Lord-Lieutenant of Ross-shire." — The same number contains a memoir of the late Charles Grant, taken from a London magazine.

Ibid.—A meeting was held at Fort-William and a Society formed for the purpose of disseminating Christian knowledge by means of Sabbath Schools, Circulating Libraries, and the dispersion of tracts. The Rev. Charles J. Bayne presided at the meeting, and Sir Ewen Cameron of Fassifern was elected patron.

March 4.—Two Excise cutters made a capture at Kilmuir, near Kessock, of 100 English gallons of whisky and five horses. The whisky was sold at the Excise Office at Inverness, and the horses were disposed of by public roup at the rate of 6s a head.

Ibid.—"The venerable Highlander, Patrick Grant, to whom his Majesty two years ago granted a pension of one guinea per week, died at Braemar on the 11th ult., in the 111th year of his age. He expired while sitting in his elbow chair, having felt scarcely any previous illness. His pension now devolves on his daughter, Anne, during life. It is thought her late father was the only survivor of those who fought at the battles of Culloden and Falkirk. He was present when the Pretender embarked for France."

March 18.—"Some days ago a ploughman in the service of Mr Lockhart Kinloch, at Knocktown of Muirtown, ploughing rather deeper than usual, turned up two cannon balls, one a six-pound shot, the other a four-pound ball,

both much corroded; they have no doubt been fired from the Castle, which is exactly opposite and about 1800 yards distant; a stone shot of the size of a six-pound iron ball, of granite, and a ball 16 inches in diameter, of granite, encrusted in the cavities of the stone with brick-dust indurated, were some time ago found opposite the Citadel, and have probably been fired from it."

*Ibid.*—The solicitors of Inverness gave a dinner in the Town Hall, at which Mr Gilzean, the Sheriff-Substitute, was the chief guest. Provost Grant (of Bught) was in the chair, and Mr Kinloch, Sheriff-Clerk, officiated as croupier.

March 25.—A melancholy drowning accident is recorded in this issue. A person engaged in building a house, engaged four men from Clachnaharry to convey stones from Redcastle Quarry. "The boat employed on this occasion was old and insecure, and on her return from the quarry deeply laden, sank at a distance of about 200 yards from the Redcastle Pier, when, melancholy to relate, the employer and whole crew perished. Four of these men were married, and have left widows and a number of helpless children to deplore their fate. The other was a young man who supported his aged and infirm relatives. The bodies were found as the tide retired, and conveyed next day to Clachnaharry, where a scene of distress ensued among their families and neighbours, which we need not describe. Tuesday last the interment of the bodies took place, and a more mournful procession was never witnessed in this quarter."

*Ibid.*—A movement began for the amendment of the laws relating to salmon fishing. The Commissioners of Supply of the county of Elgin held a meeting and passed resolutions on the subject. The greatest evil specified was the want of legal protection for the fish during the breeding time.

*Ibid.*—The same number reports a long debate in the House of Commons on the subject of negro slavery. The Government proposed a series of reforms to ameliorate the condition of the negro.

April 1.—The death is recorded of the Rev. Robert Smith of Cromarty. He was a native of Inverness, and was distinguished as a pastor and preacher.

April 8.—"We understand that the beautiful and extensive highland barony of Glenelg, in this county, was purchased last week in Edinburgh by the Right Hon. Charles Grant, M.P., at

£82,000 sterling. A few years since the same estate fetched nearly £100,000, and a vast sum has since been expended in improvements upon it."

*Ibid.*—County meetings continue to be held and resolutions passed on the subject of salmon fishing. The duties on wool were another topic before these meetings. Ministers had proposed to remove some restrictions on trade, and more particularly to allow the exportation of long wools. Manufacturers, however, were endeavouring by petitions "to alter the opinions of his Majesty's Ministers, and by continuing the monopoly they now enjoy to purchase wool at their own prices, as has hitherto been the case." This is the statement of the county of Ross, which agreed to petition Parliament in favour of the proposals of his Majesty's Ministers.

April 15.—"The Magistrates of Dingwall have readily conceded to the inhabitants of that town the free election of Commissioners of Police, and agreed to several important amendments suggested by the burgesses on the impending Police Bill. This is an indication of the liberal spirit of the age, and an example worthy of imitation."

April 29.—"Mr Maclean of this place, who has lately returned from prosecuting his studies as an artist in Italy, has in his possession two old coins, the sight of which may gratify our antiquarian readers. He obtained them at Burghead, where 17 of similar description were found, the whole deposited in a horn. This horn, though entire when found, crumbled into dust on being exposed to the air. The following account of these coins is given by a gentleman skilled in matters of antiquarian research: 'Your coins must be of the reign of Edward III. The 'fleur de lis' shows it could be no earlier, and the work not much later. The motto round the reverse seems to be 'Crucem Exaltat Gloria,' which I have on a gold coin of Edward III. The inner legend is, I think, Villa Ro: Meyron, for the town of Rochester where they were coined, Meyron, the name of the Mint Master."

May 6.—Petitions from the counties of Inverness and Ross prayed the Legislature to be careful in any interference they made with the domestic affairs of the West Indian Colonies. These petitions spoke of the danger of agitation among the blacks, and of the amount of property that was imperilled. The object of the Ross-shire meeting was to petition "against a spirit apparently spreading, having a tend-

ency to lead to measures which may be productive of the most disastrous consequences, if not provided against by the wisdom of Parliament." Their resolutions bore that "the advantages derived by the United Kingdom from the West Indian Colonies are estimated at little less than twenty millions sterling, besides the value of property calculated at nearly 130 millions." The resolutions of the county of Inverness deprecated sudden and violent changes, but also declared that "the existence of slavery in the West Indian Colonies is an evil of the greatest magnitude," and called for the attention of Parliament with the view of the ultimate admission of the blacks to the same rights as the rest of his Majesty's subjects; further, "that the measures lately adopted by the Legislature for gradually enlarging the rights and providing for the religious and moral instruction of the slaves are eminently deserving of the cordial and unqualified support of all classes."

*Ibid.*—At the Circuit Court at Inverness, Thomas Macpherson was accused of having on the 24th July thrown a stone at the late Alexander Davidson, sawyer at Daltullich, said to be in the parish of Edinkillie and county of Elgin, whereby the said Davidson was murdered. Macpherson pleaded not guilty. "On the cross-examination of the first witness it came out that Daltullich was situated in the parish of Ardlach and county of Nairn. After a learned argument, Lord Pitmilley decided that the objection was fatal to the indictment, and the panel was dismissed from the bar."

*Ibid.*—"Died, at the Manse of Kildonan, on the 14th April, the Rev. Alexander Sage, minister of that parish, in the 72nd year of his age and 37th year of his ministry."

*Ibid.*—Notice is taken of the death in March of James Mackay, resident at St Louis, in Louisiana. About forty years before, Mr Mackay had emigrated from Scotland to Canada, and becoming engaged in the fur trade, he explored the region of the upper lakes and the country as far west as the Rocky Mountains. Afterwards he settled in Louisiana, then under Spanish Government, and was employed to explore the country watered by the Missouri and its tributary rivers, "a region almost without a civilised man." In remuneration for his services he received a grant of a large tract of land, and was appointed to various offices, including that of Military Commandant. When Louisiana was ceded to the United States, he was chosen to serve in various capacities, as

Major of Militia, Judge of a District Court, and member of the Legislature. A tribute is paid to the character and services of Mr Mackay.

May 13.—The foundation of a new Episcopal Chapel was laid at Fortrose on the previous Friday.

Ibid.—The Conveners of the County at an adjourned meeting laid on the table a letter from the Lord Advocate enclosing a communication from the Board of Excise insisting on more vigorous measures for the suppression of illicit distillation. Collector Watson stated that the Justices sitting at Excise Courts had no alternative except to impose a minimum fine of £20 on offenders, and that in future he would insist on this penalty. The meeting drew up a series of resolutions showing that from the poverty of the people such fines could not be levied, and that if they were insisted on, the jail accommodation would not be sufficient to contain the parties imprisoned at a single Excise Court. At a Court which followed immediately afterwards there was a large number of cases. The Justices in the first case inflicted a fine of £3, on which Collector Watson withdrew all the other cases, for the purpose of reporting to the Board of Excise.

May 20.—Lord Byron died at Missolonghi on the night of the 19th April, after an illness of ten days. "However far his compatriots may differ in their estimate of the moral worth and usefulness of this illustrious person, they are at one in the sentiment of melancholy regret for the premature extinction of the most splendid poetical genius that England has produced in her latter days."

Ibid.—"In consequence of different Acts of Parliament, the Heritors of the county directed their Collector to make an assessment for the money necessary for the repair of the military and Parliamentary roads proportionally on the proprietors of houses within the Royal Burgh of Inverness, conform to their rentals, as liable to the property tax in the year 1814, and to levy the same accordingly; but the burgh Heritors resisted the assessment on the ground that they were not liable by these statutes, which clearly meant to exempt houses in the town, and the question was carried by them to the Supreme Court by suspension. After a tedious and expensive litigation the case was decided on the 15th inst. in the Second Division, when their lordships unanimously suspended the Letters and found the suspenders entitled to their expenses. By this decision the

proprietors of houses in the burgh have got free of a heavy assessment intended to be levied for 1815 and subsequent years."

*Ibid.*—Notice is taken of experiments to be carried out by the Morayshire Farmer Club to ascertain the most profitable kind of winter feeding for cattle. The writer adds—"Although this Society have, by a series of five years' cattle shows and premiums, from 1812 to 1816, accomplished a very considerable improvement in the breeds of black cattle and draught horses in the county of Moray—as is strikingly obvious to those acquainted with the state of that district previously—yet they are most anxious to carry that improvement still further; and intend to institute another series of cattle shows with the view of exciting and keeping up, among practical farmers, a spirit of attention and emulation in this great branch of agriculture."

June 3.—At the meeting of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland several members of the Presbytery of Inverness were rebuked for irregular proceedings in connection with the settlement at Kiltarhity.

*Ibid.*—Proposals were suggested at this time for passing a Poor Law Bill for Scotland. The "Courier" says:—"In the parish of Inverness there is no assessment for the poor, but the inhabitants of the town contribute voluntarily for the support of an Institution for the Suppression of Begging, and from which soup, meal, and money are distributed among the necessitous. The burden of maintaining the poor is thus left upon the benevolent inhabitants of Inverness, the proportion of the expense defrayed by the Heritors being very slender indeed."

June 10.—At the annual meeting of the Northern Missionary Society, held at Inverness, contributions to the amount of £77 14s were reported.

June 17.—"On Tuesday, Peter Scott, from Edinburgh, was elected master of the Latin and Greek classes in the Inverness Academy, in room of Mr Carmichael, who has been appointed one of the masters of the Edinburgh Academy."

June 24.—The Wool Market this year opened with a very dull tone, but before the close there was an improvement, and most of the stockmasters sold. "A great part of the Cheviot wool was sold at 13s per stone of 24 lbs. English, at short credit, with a sixpence more per stone of reference, depending on the state of the market at settling. When credit on bill for a more extended time was given, that description of

wool fetched 14s per stone. We heard of one small lot of superior wool from Sutherland having been sold as high as 15s per stone. The wool of the blackfaced sheep sold a little lower than the Cheviot, say at 12s and 12s 6d per double stone. The sheep market was not quite so spirited as that of the wool; but a very considerable number was disposed of notwithstanding. One lot of Cheviot widders sold at 19s, and the current prices of the market for this sheep were from 13s to 17s; Cheviot ewes, from 7s 6d to 8s 6d and 9s; Cheviot widder hogs at 5s 6d, 5s 9d, and 6s; and lambs at 4s 6d to 6s; Blackfaced widders brought from 9s 6d to 13s 6d; ewes from 6s to 7s; and lambs from 4s to 5s. A contract to the extent of about £1200 was entered into by the sheep farmers of Sutherland with a gentleman of this town for smearing materials.

July 1.—Died at Milntown Cottage on the 27th ult., Captain George Macpherson, R.N. He entered the navy as a midshipman in 1800, served under Lord Nelson, fought in the Dardanelles, in Egypt, in the Walcheren Expedition, and on the attack on Algiers in 1816. In private life his character was hospitable and kindly. "On the day of his funeral, the garrison of Fort-George testified their respect for departed worth by paying, unsolicited, the military honours due to his rank; and the shops in Campbelltown, through which the procession passed, were shut. A number of his sorrowing friends resolved to erect a monument to his memory in testimony of their heartfelt regard."

Ibid.—Lord Macdonald died in London on Saturday, the 19th ult. He served some years in the 10th Regiment, and afterwards raised a corps of Fencibles. He also represented the borough of Saltash in Parliament for several sessions. Lord Macdonald did much for the improvement of his estates. "Convinced that the first step towards improvement is to render a country accessible, his lordship made, with the assistance of Government, upwards of 100 miles of public road, on his own property, in the Isle of Skye and North Uist; subscribed largely towards the formation of roads in the districts leading to those islands, and built handsome piers at Kyleakin and Portree, not only to promote the trade of those villages, but generally as a protection to shipping in a tempestuous sea. As an inducement to himself and his successors to live on their own estates, he began a magnificent castle at Armadale, according to a design by Gillespie, and

carried it on so far towards completion, and embellished it with so much taste that it is now one of the greatest ornaments of the North. His lordship's constant endeavours also to improve the manufacture of kelp and introduce the culture of hemp, to drain the marshes and cultivate wastes, to erect churches, mills, and bridges, and by every means to provide food and employment for the lower orders, will cause his memory to be long cherished in the hearts of a grateful population." It was Lord Macdonald's boast that not a man had been compelled to emigrate from his property, and that not one tenant had his goods sequestrated from the time his lordship came to the estates. A notice in a subsequent issue says that in 1817, when there was actual famine over the greater part of the Highlands and Isles, Lord Macdonald became bound to Government in several thousand pounds for supplies of grain and potatoes sent to his estates.

July 15.—"The steam packets through the Caledonian Canal, and coaches from the South and East, daily bring crowds of strangers to visit the Highlands; and the three steam packets and daily coaches seem to be at present well employed."

August 5.—"On Wednesday, the 29th ult., the *Malvina*, built by and belonging to Mr John Gordon, was launched off the bank of the Caledonian Canal. She is intended for a steam packet, and is built on the new principle of manifold courses of planking. She draws only 18 inches of water, notwithstanding which she lies very steady and stiff in the water."

*Ibid.*—A meeting of the Heritors and Commissioners of Supply of the County of Ross resolved to establish tolls in aid of the County assessment.

*Ibid.*—"Mr Stuart, younger of Dunearn, while passing through Dingwall on his way to the estate of Strathconon, which he has lately purchased, happened to learn that a gentleman was confined in the jail of that town under circumstances which strongly excited his feelings. Mr Stuart immediately lodged £60 with the Magistrates of Dingwall and procured the prisoner's enlargement. The debt was for £50. What enhances this humane act is that Mr Stuart never heard of any of the parties concerned till his visit to Dingwall."

August 12 —On Thursday, the 5th inst., Mr Macleod of Geanies completed the fiftieth anniversary of office as Sheriff-Depute of the Counties of Ross and Cromarty, having been appointed in August 1774, when he was about 30 years



of age. His administration, it is stated, had been throughout distinguished by great vigour, activity, and talent. The inhabitants of the county had also been remarkable for their peaceful and orderly conduct. The Sheriff's fiftieth anniversary was celebrated by a public dinner given at Dingwall by the Sheriffs-Substitute and procurators of the Counties of Ross and Cromarty. Meetings were also held at Tain.

Ibid.—A Justice of Peace Court was held at Inverness to determine the question whether they had the power to inflict a smaller penalty than £20 for certain offences against the distillery laws. An offender stood his trial, and Counsel appeared for the Crown. The Court found that according to statute the sum of £20 was the minimum penalty, and imposed it accordingly, the alternative being six months' imprisonment. Counsel for the prosecution stated that the object of the Crown was to establish a precedent, and this being a test case, they did not insist on the penalties.

August 19.—A correspondent writes:—"At a Justice of Peace Court lately held at Broadford, in Skye, for the purpose of discussing prosecutions, at the instance of Mr Burrell, Collector of Excise, Oban, the Justices present, anxious to put an effectual stop to smuggling, imposed a fine of £5 for each conviction in malting cases, and a fine of £100 for each conviction in cases of illicit distillation; and granted warrants for incarcerating every delinquent who fails to pay within half a year, in the jail of Inverness, for the period of six calendar months. The whole of the fines imposed on this occasion, I understand, amount together to the enormous sum of £3400."

August 26.—"During the fourteen days immediately preceding Monday last, upwards of 2500 Highland shearers passed through the Crinan Canal for the South, in the steamboats Ben-Nevis, Comet, and Highlander, from the islands of Mull, Skye, &c. So crowded was the Highlander on one occasion that she was compelled to land a number of the passengers at Crinan, and cause them to walk down the bank of the Canal to Lochgilphead."

September 2.—"The law with regard to fining smugglers and the power of Justices being now perfectly understood, another serious obstacle to the due prosecution of offenders against the Excise laws has arisen. A few weeks ago in Dingwall no Justice of Peace appeared at a Court which was summoned, as they could use no discretionary power in the exercise of their

functions, and we learn that in some of the other neighbouring counties it is the resolution of the Justices to come forward and state their determination not to act upon the regulations of the Act, even at the hazard of being struck off the Commission. At a Court held here on Tuesday last, a great deal of discussion took place, and a number of cases were put off on the plea of undue services of intimation on the delinquents. Three persons were fined in the penalty of £20, and a warrant for incarceration, after much difficulty, was granted against one of the men."

*Ibid.*—At the anniversary meeting of the Northern Missionary Society, held at Tain, subscriptions and collections were intimated to the amount of £86 14s.

September 16.—"Died, at Madras, in the East Indies, on his way home to Britain, on the 1st of September 1823, Thomas Fraser, Esq. of Gorthleck, in the Civil Service of the Honourable East India Company at Nellore."

September 23.—At the annual meeting for the election of Magistrates, Dr Robertson of Aultnaskiach was elected Provost of Inverness.

September 30.—The Common Good of the Burgh of Inverness, including tolls, anchorage, and shore dues, was disposed of this year for £887 6s 6d.

*Ibid.*—"The Right Hon. Lord Macdonald has most liberally given a donation of £50 to the Northern Infirmary. This Institution has received more money from this noble family than from any other whatever. The late Lord Macdonald contributed no less than £200 at different times in aid of the Infirmary funds. Lady and Lord Macdonald, accompanied by Provost Robertson, visited the Infirmary, and were pleased to express themselves in terms of great approbation with regard to the appearance and management of the Institution."

*Ibid.*—The Northern Meeting opened on the 29th, "and we have the pleasure to state that there scarce ever was a greater concourse of illustrious company and splendid equipages witnessed in our town." The Marquis and Marchioness of Huntly were present. Races were held at Dunain.

*Ibid.*—The Rev. Alexander Stewart, late minister of the Chapel of Ease in Rothesay, was on Thursday last admitted to the pastoral charge of the parish of Cromarty.—On the same day the Rev. Mr Hoyes was admitted to the pastoral charge of the parish of Forres.

*Ibid.*—At a trial at the Circuit Court, counsel for a female prisoner complained that she had been



FRAGMENT OF INVERNESS CASTLE  
BLOWN UP IN 1746.



already confined six months in the prison of Tain, a place which he described as totally unfit for the accommodation of any human being. "The floor is of clay, there is no bed to lie upon, no fire-place, nothing but the bare stone wall. There is a sort of window, or rather aperture, in the wall, framed with iron stanchions, without a pane of glass to protect the unfortunate prisoners from the inclemency of the weather." The presiding Judge, Lord Pitmilley, ascertained on enquiry that this statement was not exaggerated, and he sentenced the culprit to be confined for other six months in the Jail of Inverness, the County of Ross to bear the expense. At the same time he urged the Magistrates of Tain and county gentlemen to provide a suitable place of confinement. The Advocate-Depute said he would report the matter to the Lord Advocate, and if the recommendation from the Bench was not attended to, the Magistrates of Tain would be compelled to provide a proper jail. A paragraph states that the Magistrates of Tain some time previously offered to contribute a large sum "considering the revenue of the burgh" for the building of a new jail, but the County would not meet them with suitable assistance.

*Ibid.*—In the same issue there is a notice of Dr Macculloch's book, a *Tour in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland*. Dr Macculloch described the situation of Inverness in appreciative and felicitous terms. Of the town itself he says:—"When I have said that Inverness is a clean town, and a good-looking town, and that it has a handsome bridge, and that its castle has vanished, and that it possesses the best and the civilest and cheapest inns in Scotland, and that it has a steeple to its jail instead of to its church, there seems nothing left to say about it. But who shall describe its situation in ten times that number of words?" After eloquently describing the scene, he concludes—"Those who have not seen the Highland fair washing clothes in the Ness have probably seen the same display elsewhere; yet they have not anywhere seen this show in greater purity and perfection." Dr Macculloch made some ill-natured remarks about Nairn, which leads his reviewer to say that he is quite mistaken. "A more cheerful little town with a more pleasant society in and about it does not stand in the North of Scotland. No stranger who has once enjoyed its hospitality will be in any haste to quit it, and if the Doctor had remained but a few days to

breathe the pure, invigorating air of Nairn, to look upon its pleasant marine views, and to cultivate an acquaintance with its inhabitants, he would have got rid of some of those ill-humours, the expression of which often detracts from the general merit of his performance."

October 7.—In this issue there is a fuller account of the Northern Meeting. "The company began to arrive in great numbers as early as Tuesday of last week; and by Wednesday noon our streets were literally crowded with equipages and vehicles of every description proceeding to the race-ground. The weather on that day was cold and rainy, but on the two following days it became mild, clear, and pleasant." The gaieties occupied three full days. Nearly 500 persons were present at the ball on Friday night, and upwards of 250 sat down to supper. Mr Mackenzie of Kilcoy presided at dinner on Wednesday, the Hon. James Sinclair on Thursday, and the Marquis of Huntly on Friday. "In the ballroom the Marchioness of Huntly presided, with manners so kind and graceful, with a judgment so correct and in accordance with the general feelings of the company, as to give great satisfaction. Under her ladyship's directions, the tactics of the dance were arranged with the utmost order, mingling in due proportion the gracefulness of the quadrille with the sprightliness of our own strathspeys." It was stated that this was on the whole the most agreeable and splendid Meeting which had taken place in Inverness since the first establishment of the Northern Meeting. High expectations were formed of the next Races, towards which large sums had been already contributed. A subscription had been opened for erecting a new stand on the race course. The Marquis of Huntly and Lord Macdonald had each subscribed a hundred guineas.

*Ibid.*—At a Head Court of the County of Inverness, the roll of freeholders was revised. The new roll as made up consisted of sixty-six voting freeholders in the County.

October 14.—As formerly intimated, the Magistrates of Dingwall conceded to the inhabitants of that burgh the free election of three Commissioners to co-operate with the Town Council in the administration of the Police Act, passed in the last session of Parliament. On the 6th inst. the election took place in the Town Hall in presence of the Chief Magistrates. Three Commissioners were chosen by open poll of the inhabitant householders. "The election

was conducted in the most peaceable and decorous manner. From this circumstance it may be fairly inferred that no danger whatever could result from restoring to the Scottish burgesses the right of suffrage, of which they have so long been deprived."

Ibid.—"Died, at Arbroath, in the prime of life, on the 3rd curt., Mr David Carey, junior. Having solely devoted his life to literary pursuits, Mr Carey may be said to have been an author by profession, and his productions in this line, both in prose and verse, are numerous and possessed of considerable merit. For a number of years past he was connected with the public press in London, where he continued to reside till lately, but he returned to his native place in hopes of recovering his health. Mr Carey for some years conducted the *Inverness Journal* for the late Mr Young, and while here published the long descriptive poem of *Craig-Phadrick*," &c.

October 21.—An account is given of a discovery of an earthen jar containing a great number of coins in a high state of preservation. The jar was found at a depth of about a foot from the surface of the ground, close by the Greyfriars Church-yard in Inverness. The apprehension that the coins would be claimed by the Exchequer kept the discovery secret for a time, but it is stated that boys on the street were latterly selling them at threepence each. The coins were silver pennies, many of them English, of the reigns of Henry III., Edward II., and Edward III., and the rest Scottish, chiefly of Alexander III., Robert I., and David II. "It is supposed that the jar contained upwards of 3000 of these silver pennies; but from the breaking of the vessel before they were observed and carting away the mould in which they were found, many of them must have been lost." The hoard, it is stated, must have been deposited about the middle of the 14th century, none of the coins being of more modern date. The claims of the Exchequer had prevented other finds from being reported. "We know that a few months ago an old woman found a large horn in the hollow trunk of a tree in the remote district of Arisaig, filled with ancient coins, but from the fear of being deprived of them, she doled them out at a trifle each, and thus have they been lost. Some years ago a like treasure, to an unknown amount, was discovered in the old Castle of Urquhart, and were instantly sent to the crucible or otherwise disposed of for the same reason. We may mention at the same time

that the Exchequer very liberally returned to Mr Naughten the gold rod found some mouths ago near the Druid's Temple at Leys."

Ibid.—A Ladies' Society representing Easter Ross, Cromarty, and Sutherland, held its seventh anniversary at Tain on the 15th inst. Subscriptions and donations amounted to £70 9s. The money was distributed among various missionary and educational societies.

October 23.—"The representation of the County of Inverness will become the subject of extraordinary competition at the next election. The Right Hon. Charles Grant, the present member, the Right Hon. Lord Macdonald, Colonel Baillie of Leys, M.P. for Headon, and J. N. Macleod of Macleod have respectively addressed the freeholders, and the canvass is proceeding with great spirit on both sides."

Ibid.—"The Muir of Ord Cattle Market, now the most important in all the Northern Counties of Scotland, held last week, and was well attended by dealers from the south country. The ready sale of stock at former markets and by private bargains, thinned this last market of a great proportion of cattle. Still, the number brought forward on this occasion was moderately estimated at 3000, and money exchanged for stock must have amounted to a sum of from £10,000 to £12,000. A few jobbers scoured the country a day or two before the market opened, and bought a number of inferior beasts, but none of the respectable dealers had recourse to this practice. The highest price given was for a lot of stots from Lord Gower's farm in Sutherlandshire. They fetched eleven guineas per head; some say a few shillings more. It is certain they were not less. But these cattle were not purchased by one of the regular cattle-dealers. The price for three-year-old stots ran from £6 to £7 10s; two-year-old stots from £5 15s to £7 7s. Some two-year-old stots belonging to Lovat brought £7 10s. Inferior two-year-old stots brought from £2 15s to £3 10s, and one-year-old stots of good stamp brought £4. Two fine heifers belonging to Mr Jeffrey were sold as high as £7 10s each. Two-year-old heifers were sold from £3 to £4. Heifers, however, were not in great request at this market, nor was the market for sheep of very great importance. The greater part of this description of stock had previously been disposed of. Only one lot of good blackfaced widders appeared at the market, and were sold at 17s each. Some inferior widders sold at 10s. Blackfaced ewes fetched from 6s to 9s. By the evening of Friday last



the Muir of Ord was cleared of every beast brought forward; and consequently the market held on the Island, near this town, on the following day, was one where very little business was done. This market has, indeed, for a long time been falling off. It has almost entirely given way before the Muir of Ord market."

*Ibid.*—Two Excise seizures are reported. One consisted of 120 gallons of foreign gin, being part of the cargo of a lugger, which had been successfully pursued by a sloop of war. The gin was found concealed under the sand banks near Campbeltown. In the other case a revenue party seized five horses, removing upwards of one hundred gallons of smuggled whisky in the neighbourhood of Fort-William.

*Ibid.*—A bill for amending the forms of Judicature in Scotland was at this time under consideration, and was discussed at county meetings. The County of Ross declared "that the system of administration of justice in Scotland is so defective in point of form, and is attended by such delay, expense, and uncertainty, that a thorough revision of it is highly expedient." On the other hand, the County of Elgin declared "that in the Court of Session the form of process is substantially good"; and the machinery of the Sheriff Courts worked so well "that any attempt to improve it cannot be very necessary."

November 4.—A meeting of Highland proprietors was held in Edinburgh to promote the cause of Highland education and make application on the subject to Government. One speaker said that he was a member of a Society in Inverness which had established 30 schools; another said he was a member of a Society in Edinburgh which had established 80 schools. Mr Inglis, W.S., said that Highland proprietors were more burdened with expense in educating the lower orders than proprietors of any other part of the Kingdom. He also said "he was assured by a Highland gentleman that according to the usual mode of conducting education in the Highlands, a Highlander might be enabled to read the whole Bible in English without understanding a word of it." A letter circulated by a Highland proprietor stated that of the male population in the Highlands not above one-third could speak any English at all, and not more than one in ten could read or write it. The women were almost entirely ignorant of English. "It is a peculiar and very unfavourable circumstance for a Highlander that to instruct him with any effect he must

be taught not one language but two. To read Gaelic is of no service to him, because there are no Gaelic books printed. If taught English without Gaelic he learns it by rote without comprehending the sense." A speaker at the meeting said that, as the result of experience, he could state that a person having once been taught to read Gaelic acquired a knowledge of English five times easier than if put to learn English at once. Resolutions were adopted to further the object of the meeting.

November 11.—A meeting of the Society for the Education of the Poor in the Highlands was held on the 3rd inst. in the Inverness Town Hall. There was a crowded attendance, due to the fact that the member for the county, the Right Hon. Charles Grant, and his brother, Mr Robert Grant, were to address the meeting. Their speeches were characterised by an eloquence and fervour which captivated the audience, and are commented on in the newspaper columns. Among the other speakers were Colonel Baillie of Leys and Provost Robertson. The report of the meeting extends to four columns.

November 18.—This issue reports an almost uninterrupted continuance of wind and rain for many weeks. "The River Ness, which has been rising for some weeks, attained yesterday to such a height as has not been remembered by the oldest inhabitant in town, and now presents a magnificent but fearful spectacle. Those residing on either side of the river found it necessary to protect their houses by raising temporary embankments for keeping out the water, which is rolling down with such strength and rapidity as to create fears for the safety of the bridges." In many districts a large part of the crop was not only unstacked, but uncut.

November 25.—"In the year 1795 a letter containing a one pound note of the British Linen Company's Bank was addressed by a man in this town to J. Macdonald, private, Light Company, 78th Regiment, then in England. Before the letter arrived at its destination, however, Macdonald sailed for India, and the letter followed him. From India it followed him through the various routes of his Company, and came back to Inverness about ten years ago. Shortly before then Macdonald came home, and died at Dochfour. There was, therefore, no claimant for the letter, and it was returned to the General Post-Office. From this office it was again sent after the 78th Regiment, followed it, and about ten days ago was

sent back after Macdonald to Inverness, still containing the identical one pound note. It is now claimed by the person who despatched it, who is still living."

*Ibid.*—The same issue contains a long account of the great fire in Edinburgh which destroyed the steeple of the Tron Church.

December 2.—An amusing description of the Martinmas Market in Inverness is contributed by a correspondent. Friday was the great day of the fair. "The whole Highlands seemed to have poured forth their crop of live stock, biped and quadruped—in short, there was 'life in Inverness' for the few short-lived hours of the Martinmas Market. Every avenue to the town presented the most amusing pictures and scenes of humour. The 'whiskies, huggies, gigs, and dog-carts, curricles and tandems' of the highest order, down to the lobans of the lowest potato-monger, thronged in 'every lane and alley green.' But the town, the town itself, was the scene. Doctors and dancing dogs, ladies and lawyers, clerks and cobblers, ministers and mountebanks, poets and pick-pockets, puppies and pedlars, soldiers and sailors swelled the motley group. At one end of the town one was sure of getting a smearing of butter and a squash of herring pickle, while the finishing touch was reserved for the squeeze among the well-haired blankets upon the Exchange." There was a horse market, made up of garrons "so lost in hair that but for their size and want of horns they might be taken for an incursion of the whole colony of Abriachan goats." Now-a-days the market has dwindled to very small proportions.

December 9.—A prospectus was issued for the formation of a wool stapling company in Scotland. The promoters included several Highland proprietors.—A new set of Imperial weights and measures came into operation, and were set forth in this issue.

December 16.—The Macdonald controversy, relating to the Chiefship, was the subject of frequent correspondence. Several letters appear in this issue. The controversy was started by Glengarry, and became very acute between himself, Clanranald, and Lord Macdonald.

*Ibid.*—A company was formed in Inverness for supplying the town with water and lighting it with gas. The proposed capital was £10,000, a large proportion of which had been subscribed. Provost Robertson headed the subscription list.

*Ibid.*—An article appears on Trades Corporations in Scottish Burghs. "In these privileged

burghs," says the writer, "juntos, consisting often of not more than half-a-dozen persons, exercise despotic sway in all matters concerning their own craft. They fix high prices, which are not to be deviated from without heavy penalties. They limit the number of apprentices, and prohibit by enormous fines strangers of the same trade, however skilful, from entering within their precincts; and thus at every avenue shut out the communities that have the happiness to possess them from all the chances of a fair and free competition."

December 23.—Attention is directed to the case of certain persons from the County of Banff brought before the Court of Exchequer for illicit distillation and having malt and wash in their possession contrary to the statute. In one case a verdict was found for the Crown to the amount of £500; in another, £200; and in other two, £100 a-piece. The article states that the offenders might lay the account of such heavy penalties to the mistaken clemency of the Justices of the Peace. If the Justices declined to do their duty, offenders would be brought before the Exchequer with results such as the above. The writer urged Justices to perform their statutory functions.

Ibid.—It is announced that under the Act for providing additional places of worship in the Highlands, forty new churches were to be erected, with stipends attached of £120 a-year. "The plans and surveys are now in progress, under the superintendence of Mr Joseph Mitchell and Mr James Smith, of this town, and it is expected that operations will be commenced early in spring."

Ibid.—"The subject of railways with steam carriages at the present moment creates an extraordinary degree of interest in the southern parts of the Kingdom." Some writers spoke of vehicles travelling at the rate of 20 miles an hour. Others believed that in the progress of improvement a much higher speed might be found practicable.

December 30.—At a meeting of the Society of Antiquaries, Mr John Anderson exhibited the seals of the ancient Bishops of Moray.

Ibid.—A Society was formed in Edinburgh for amending the system of Church patronage in Scotland. The initiatory resolutions were moved by Mr George Sinclair, yr. of Ulster.

## APPENDIX.

## NOTE A.

## A FORRES FAMILY OF GRANTS.

Readers of the foregoing annals must have observed frequent reference to a family of Grants from Forres, who distinguished themselves in the public service. They were a remarkable family. The father, Duncan Grant, was born at Mullochard, in Strathspey, the seat of a branch of the Clan Allan sept of the Grants. The house, an old, quaint building, is still occupied. Duncan settled in Forres, conducted a business there, and became a prosperous man. He was made Provost of the town, and purchased a property in the neighbourhood. He married Jean, who is described in an obituary notice of one of her sons as the daughter of Robert Grant of Kylimore, Banffshire. The Highland Lady, Mrs Smith of Baltiboy (daughter of Sir John Peter Grant of Rothiemurchus) says that Mrs Grant was "well born of the Arndilly Grants, and very proud she was of her lineage." Provost Grant died in 1788, leaving his widow with a surviving family of eight sons and three daughters, one son having died in infancy before his father. The Highland Lady says that the widow was known among her friends as "Mrs Pro," and implies that she had a struggle to set out her sons in the world. The success of most of them was remarkable. Two were knighted, one became a Judge in the Supreme Court of Madras, one a Colonel in the Madras Army, and another, Colquhoun Grant, lives in the pages of Napier as the most capable intelligence officer in the army of Wellington. The youngest daughter was married to Sir James Macgrigor, a distinguished medical officer, who became a knight and a baronet. The mother of this notable family died at Forres in 1825, and a tombstone in their burying-place records as follows the family history:—

Sacred to the Memory of  
 DUNCAN GRANT, Esq. of Lingieston,  
 Provost of Forres,  
 Who died at Bath on the 1st of January 1788,  
 Aged 59 years,  
 and of  
 Mrs Jean Grant, his Widow,  
 Who died on the 11th of October 1825,  
 Aged 82 years,  
 Having been left with a young and numerous

family, she devoted herself to the discharge of her duties to them in a manner that secured her the esteem of all that knew her.

Also their Children—

Hugh, their 9th son, who died in infancy in 1782.

Archibald, their 4th son, Midshipman in the Southampton Frigate, who lost his life by volunteering a hazardous duty in 1793, aged 18 years.

Robert, their 7th son, who died at Forres in 1795, aged 17 years.

Duncan, their 6th son, Captain in the 78th Highland Regiment, who fell when gallantly leading on the escalade at Ahmedneggor, in India, on the 8th of August 1803, aged 26 years. He was an officer of great promise, and much beloved in that distinguished corps, in which he had served from the time of its first enrolment.

Walter, their eldest son, Master in Equity of the Supreme Court of Judicature at Madras, who died there on the 5th of November 1807, aged 38 years. His memory will be long cherished by his relatives and a numerous circle of friends. He was a dutiful son, an affectionate brother, and highly eminent in official capacity.

Colquhoun, their 8th son, Lieut.-Colonel of the 54th Regiment, and Assistant Quartermaster-General of the Army in the Peninsula and Netherlands, commanded by the Duke of Wellington. This distinguished officer was in charge of the Intelligence Department of these Armies during the whole of their campaigns. He died at Aix-la-Chapelle on the 23th of September 1829, aged 49 years.

Alexander, their 3rd son, who died 5th September 1834.

Lewis, their 5th son, who died 26th January 1852.

James Robert, their 2nd son, who died 12th January 1864.

Elizabeth Anne, their eldest daughter (widow of Colonel Lewis Grant), who died 7th April 1850,

And Jane Duff, their 2nd daughter, who died 21st June (year indistinct).

This additional tablet was erected in 1871 by their youngest daughter, the only survivor of the family, Dame Mary Macgrigor (widow of Sir James Macgrigor, Bart., K.C.B.), who died 1st April 1872.

This is a modest record, which avoids mention of the honours attained by the sons who survived Colquhoun. The names were, of course, inscribed

at widely different dates. In the "Courier" of October 19th 1825, there is a short obituary notice of Mrs Provost Grant, which will appear in its place in our Notes, but may be quoted here. It is as follows:—"Died, at Forres, on the 11th inst., aged 82, Mrs Jean Grant, relict of the late Duncan Grant, Esq., Provost of Forres. This much-respected lady having been deprived of her valuable husband while their numerous family were young, had great merit and satisfaction in their progress in life. It is remarkable that at one period of the late war she had not, out of six sons in the service of their country, one in Europe; but three of them having accidentally returned to the parental roof just previous to her decease, they had the melancholy satisfaction of solacing her latter moments and of attending her remains to the grave."

The eighth son, Colquhoun, had the most striking career in the family. He must not be confused with another officer, Lient.-General Sir Colquhoun Grant, who distinguished himself in the Peninsula and at Waterloo, and who sprang from the Grants of Gartonbeg. The Forres Colquhoun was a younger man, born in 1780. Through the interest of General James Grant of Ballindalloch, he obtained in 1795 an ensigncy in the 11th Foot, before he had completed his 15th year. He was, however, allowed to remain in a military school near London until, in the following year, he obtained his lieutenancy. His special aptitudes were brilliantly shown in the Peninsular War. By his facility for acquiring languages, his faculty for ingratiating himself with the peasantry and obtaining their confidence, and his wonderful shrewdness, tact, and skill in discovering the plans of the enemy, Grant became an Intelligence Officer of extraordinary expertness and resource. Many of his adventures were of the most romantic kind. As he always wore his uniform he could not be regarded or treated as a spy. A good account of his services, though necessarily abridged, appears in the Dictionary of National Biography. The late Sir Felix Mackenzie, Forres, was good enough to send us a series of Notes, which he received from an old lady, a relative of the Grants, who died some years ago, upwards of ninety years of age. This lady did not know who had written the Notes, but they are interesting and characteristic, and were probably jotted down from personal reminiscences. The opening passage may be quoted:—

"At one period of the time when the British army occupied the heights of Torres Vedras, a

scarcity of provisions began to be felt owing to contrary winds and non-arrival of some transports. A group of officers of the 11th Regiment lying on the ground were conversing on this subject, when one of them, a Captain of the Light Company, surprised them by an offer to find his way to the distant mountains (if he could obtain leave), and procure supplies for the troops both of cattle and corn. The army of the enemy under Massena lay between them and the snow-capped mountains he pointed to, but the offer was made by our friend Colquhoun Grant, and therefore not to be lightly treated. The 11th Regiment came from Maderia to Portugal, and whilst stationed at the former place Grant had learned the Portuguese language. He had also gained some knowledge of the country he was now going to explore alone, in the course of service with his regiment, before the army fell back on the formidable lines where they now defended Lisbon.

"In a couple of days Grant started, Lord Wellington having previously had some conversation with him, giving him leave of absence and a command of money. He completely succeeded in his daring enterprise. He got to the mountainous district, and there stationing himself, he completely drained the country of all its surplus produce and got the same safely transported round the flank of the French army into the British camp. By means of his old friends, the Labradores of the neighbourhood, the intelligence soon spread where ready money was to be had for all the grain and the sheep and oxen that could be spared, and for days long trains of mules laden with the former and thousands upon thousands of the latter came winding up the passes from the country beyond to Grant's snug station on the mountains. He thus restored plenty to our camp by exhausting the resources of the enemy, which made Massena leave Portugal and rendered his retreat so disastrous.

"This, I think, was the first service which brought Grant into notice and gained him the entire confidence of Lord Wellington, who ever afterwards entertained a strong personal regard for him. The tact and talent he had displayed in this instance immediately gained him further employment, and he was sent off to watch the enemy's movements as they continued hovering about. He sent off daily (sometimes hourly) intelligence to headquarters, which frequently was of the utmost importance to the Commander-in-Chief, and was always delivered into his own hands by his express orders, that no time might be lost by its passing through the ordinary channels of official communication."



The writer goes on to say that in the houses of the farmers Grant always met with the kindest reception, and such was his reliance on their good faith that after supper he sometimes joined in their dances, and afterwards went to bed and slept soundly within a hundred yards of a French sentry or vidette. "He was practically acquainted with the whole construction of the French army through all its divisions and subdivisions. He even knew the uniform of every French regiment in the country, and was always provided with a good telescope and maps." Napier describes Grant as possessing "the utmost daring so mixed with subtlety of genius and both so tempered with discretion, that it is hard to say which quality predominated." In another passage he speaks of him as "this generous and spirited and yet gentlemanly man." Napier gives a detailed account of Grant's capture by the French Marshal, Marmont, and the series of incidents that followed. Marmont seemed to be in doubt of his identity. There was a spy named John Grant in the service of Wellington, a man in his own line of extraordinary astuteness. The French Marshal appeared to admit that Colquhoun Grant had been captured in uniform, and was entitled to consideration, but he was desperately anxious to get rid of him. He therefore exacted a special parole that he would not consent to be released by the guerilla bands on his journey through Spain to France. "But Marmont also sent a letter with the escort to the Governor of Bayonne, in which, still labouring under the error that there was only one Grant, he designated his captive as a dangerous spy, who had done infinite mischief to the French army, and whom he had only not executed on the spot out of respect to something resembling a uniform which he wore at the time of his capture. He, therefore, desired that at Bayonne he should be placed in irons and sent up to Paris." Grant got wind of the contents of this letter, and so managed that its delivery was delayed, and that he was enjoying a pleasant trip to Paris in company with a French officer before the Governor of Bayonne could intercept him. At Paris he had an agreeable time, and then found means to move down to the mouth of the Loire, and to have himself transferred by French fishermen to a British ship. The last part of the adventure was the most exciting and dangerous. The whole story may be read at length in Napier's *History of the Peninsular War*, but is too long for quotation here. When Grant reached England he obtained permission to send back in exchange a French officer of equal

rank with himself. He then returned to the Peninsula "and within four months from the date of his first capture was again on the Tormes watching Marmont's army." There is little cause to wonder that Wellington placed great confidence in him. Meanwhile his position on the British staff was that of Deputy Assistant Adjutant-General. After his escape he was employed as Intelligence Officer during the rest of the Peninsular War. He became brevet Lieutenant Colonel and Major in his regiment in 1814.

When the Waterloo Campaign began, the Duke of Wellington at once availed himself of Colquhoun Grant's services, placing him in charge of the Intelligence Department of the Army with the rank of Assistant Adjutant-General. In this position Grant did admirable work. He actually sent to Wellington information of Napoleon's intention to fight in the neighbourhood of Waterloo, though by a blunder—if blunder it can be called—on the part of another officer, the message was not delivered to the Duke until the battle had begun. The story is told in a paper drawn up by Sir William Napier, and published in Napier's Life, edited by his son-in-law Lord Aberdare. The paper was forwarded by Sir William to the Duke of Cambridge in the hope that it would be useful to Colquhoun's son. We quote the passage in question:—

"When Napoleon returned from Elba, the Duke instantly called Grant from the Military College at Farnham to Belgium to take charge of the intelligence department. Before a week had passed he discovered and engaged a man and his wife, people peculiarly fitted for his purpose, to go to Paris as spies; from thence they transmitted constant and sure intelligence, having by some means access to the French Bureau de la Guerre. On the 15th June this man sent a note which I have seen noted thus by the Duke of Wellington in his own hand:—'Received from Grant, June 18th, at 11 o'clock,' that is to say, just as the battle of Waterloo was commencing. This document and its story is remarkable. Had it been received, as it ought to have been, two days before the battle, no surprise of the allies could have happened, and the great battle would probably have been fought and easily won on the banks of the Sambre. The contents ran in substance and I think nearly in words, besides a great deal of minor information—*Les routes sont combrées de troupes et de matériel, les officiers de toutes grades parlent haut que la grande bataille sera livrée avant trois Jours.*'

"Why was this important notice withheld from the Duke until it was too late? Grant was far

in advance of the British outposts to be near his agents; other agents were employed by the Duke in various directions, and to ensure the regular transmission of their reports, General Dombey was placed at Conde (I think) as an intermediate authority. That General mistook his position, and fancied he was to judge of the importance and value of the reports. Hence, on receiving Grant's important letter, he sent it back, saying that, so far from convincing him that the Emperor was advancing for battle, it assured him of the contrary. Grant instantly conveyed the letter direct to the Duke, but it only reached him on the field of Waterloo!—too late to be useful, but furnishing a convincing proof of Grant's great talent; for never was intelligence more complete, more exact, or more important, procured for a General in such grave circumstances."

At a later date Grant was promoted Lieutenant-Colonel of the 54th Foot. He commanded a brigade during the first Burmese War, and was made a C. B. In Burmah, however, he contracted a fever, and his health broke down. He sold out of the service in 1829, and died the same year at Aix-la-Chapelle, where a monument was erected to him in the Protestant cemetery. In his later years, we fear, he suffered from disappointment. Tardy promotion, combined with exile and fever, was poor recognition for the services he had rendered.

A few words may be given to other members of the family, culled in part from notices in the pages of the "Courier." Colonel Alexander Grant, C. B., died in 1834. We have been unable to trace any particulars regarding him beyond the fact that he was a distinguished Madras officer.

General Sir Lewis Grant died 26th January 1852. He entered the army in 1794 as Lieutenant in the 97th Regiment, and his other commissions are dated as follows:—Captain in 1796, Major in 1802, Lieutenant-Colonel in 1804, Colonel in 1813, Major-General in 1819, Lieutenant-General in 1837, and General in November 1851. He served with Sir Ralph Abercromby in the West Indies, and in 1820 was appointed military governor of the Bahama Islands. In 1831 he was knighted, and in 1839 became Colonel of the 96th regiment.

Sir James Robert Grant, C. B., K. H., died 12th January 1864, at Basford, near Nottingham. Born at Forres in 1773, he was in his 91st year. The obituary in the "Times" says that he served as a medical officer of the army throughout the whole of the European war, and was chief of the medical department at Waterloo. He was one of the few who served in the first and last

campaigns of the war, namely that of 1793 and that of 1815. He received the order of St Anne of Russia from the Emperor Alexander in person for his services to the Russian army in France under Count Woronzow.

The youngest daughter of the family, Mary, was, as we have said, married to Sir James Macgrigor, M.D., a distinguished army surgeon, born at Cromdale, Inverness-shire, in 1771; died in 1858. He was the eldest son of Colquhoun Macgrigor, merchant in Aberdeen, by his wife Anne, daughter of Lewis Grant of Lethendry, Strathspey. Macgrigor entered the army as a surgeon in 1793; saw service in various parts of the world and rose rapidly; in 1811 was appointed chief of the medical staff of Wellington's army in the Peninsula, and was with the army from Ciudad Rodrigo, to Toulouse. In 1814 he was knighted. Wellington said of him—"He is one of the most industrious, able, and successful public servants I have ever met with." In 1815 Sir James was appointed Director-General of the Army Medical Department, and held the post until 1851. Sir James originated two benevolent societies in connection with the Army Medical Service which have proved highly successful. He was also the author of numerous publications. Sir James was created a baronet in 1830, and died in 1858 aged 87. His widow died in 1872.

There are few families which can show such a record as the family of Provost Duncan Grant, of Forres. Yet in the region where they were born only a man here and there knows that they ever lived! *Sic transit.*

## NOTE B.

## THE ANGLO-INDIAN GRANTS.

## CHARLES GRANT.

Highlanders must excuse us for the heading of this note which treats of Charles Grant, of Indian fame, and his sons, Lord Glenelg and Sir Robert Grant. They were genuine Highlanders by long descent, but the name Anglo-Indian has come into common use and has an understood meaning.

Charles Grant, the elder, was a man of remarkable talent and character, who carved out for himself a career of eminent usefulness and dignity. His portrait adorns the Court-House of Inverness Castle, painted by Raeburn at the cost of his admirers in the county which he long represented. In our Northern Notes Charles Grant's name repeatedly occurs during the first twenty-three years of the nineteenth century. As one of the Directors of the East India Company and for a time Chairman of the Board, he possessed an influence which he exercised for the benefit of the Eastern population under British sway, and for the promotion of religion. He was the friend of Wilberforce, of Zachary Macaulay (the father of Lord Macaulay), and of other eminent men. He would probably have been Governor-General of India if he had not been obliged by family reasons to return home in middle life. It was through his exertions that India was opened to missionary effort, a policy that the Company long opposed. He took an active part in promoting the construction of the Caledonian Canal and opening up the Highlands by the construction of roads, and he gave valuable assistance to the cause of education. Through his patronage many young Highlanders found openings in the East. He was a man of strict integrity and of indomitable purpose, broad-minded, clear-sighted, and of great administrative ability. His life, unfortunately, has not been written at any length. There is an interesting account of him, however, in Dr George Smith's book, "Twelve Indian Statesmen," and another in the Dictionary of National Biography. References to his family are to be found in Mr William Mackay's History of Urquhart and

Glenmoriston. Shortly after his death a sketch of his career appeared in a London magazine called the "Christian Guardian," which was partly reproduced in our columns at the time. Some of his speeches are reported in old newspaper files. We believe it is possible that a biography of him may yet be published, but meantime something may be said here of himself and his family in supplement to what has appeared in previous pages.

Charles Grant was born at the farm house of Aldourie on the 16th of April 1746, the day of the battle of Culloden. His father, Alexander Grant, fought at the battle on the side of Prince Charles, and was wounded. It is sometimes said that he was killed, but this was not the case; on the contrary, he was very much alive and active during the retreat as well as on the battlefield. On account of his skill with his weapon, he was known as the Swordsman. Alexander was a scion of the Shewglie branch of the House of Grant, and tenant of the farm of Easter Inchbrine, or Balbeg, in Glen-Urquhart. He was an applicant for the post of forester on the Urquhart estate when the troubles in the Glen broke out, but forfeited his claim by joining a contingent for the Prince's army. The Chief of Grant favoured the Hanoverian side, but many of his clansmen in Glen-Urquhart acted against his wishes. The contingent above-mentioned was led by two of Shewglie's sons, Robert and Alexander, cousins of the Swordsman. The ardent tenant of Balbeg had a brother named James, who was so badly wounded at Culloden that he died in his aunt's house at Cradlehall a few hours after his flight from the field. The Swordsman himself, though wounded in the head, not only escaped, but helped others on the way. Mr Mackay writes:—

"He [Alexander] saved Somerled Dubh Macdonald by severing a trooper's arm which was raised to strike him. Wishing to avoid the streets of Inverness, he and his companions passed by the town, and forded the Ness above the Islands. William Macmillan, from the Braes, was being hard-pressed in mid-stream by a trooper, when Grant stole behind, and with a stroke of his sword brought horse and rider into the water. His next stroke cleft the Englishman's head in two."

Alexander made good his escape, but was

obliged to remain in hiding for two years. His little property, says Dr Smith, was ruined by depredations. At a later date, like many other Highlanders, he took service under the Government which he had resisted at Culloden. "As a Volunteer with the prospect of a commission, which he obtained, he joined one of two Highland regiments raised to reinforce the army in America, and at the siege of the Havana held a small fort through the extremes of famine till he was relieved. His solitary wife was helped to bring up her children by Grant of Shewglie, the head of the family, whose own father had died in prison, a victim of the rebellion." We have found no record of the death of Alexander Grant, which probably took place abroad. His wife, Margaret Macbean, removed to the house of her father, who was tenant of the farm of Aldourie, when her husband joined the Prince's army. There accordingly Charles Grant was born, as we have said, on the day of the battle of Culloden, and was named after the Prince. It may be mentioned that nearly twenty years afterwards Sir James Mackintosh was born in the neighbouring mansion-house of Aldourie.

The family seems to have soon returned to Glen-Urquhart. Young Charles received the first part of his education at the school of Milton, in Urquhart, founded by the Society for the Propagation of Christian Knowledge. He was next sent by a relative to a school at Elgin, and had just left it, at the age of fourteen, when he was recommended to William Forsyth, a merchant and shipowner in Cromarty, who happened to pay a visit to his Elgin kinsmen. The life of Forsyth has been written by Hugh Miller. He had served for a short time in a counting house in London, but returned on the death of his father to Cromarty, where he carried on an extensive business and exercised considerable influence in the district. Forsyth himself had experiences in connection with the rising of the '45. He had been taken prisoner by a party of Highlanders who visited Cromarty, and kept for a day or two at Inverness before being liberated. From a neighbouring hill he witnessed the smoke of Culloden. Mr Forsyth was a man of capacity and education, and treated his young assistant with great kindness. Miller says that Mr Forsyth furnished Charles Grant with books, introduced him to his more intelligent and influential friends, and helped

him with his purse and his advice. In this situation he remained for about five years. Then at the age of nineteen Charles went to London to enter the counting house of Alexander Grant, one of the Shewglie brothers who fought by the side of his father at Culloden. In the interval Alexander had been in India serving under Clive, and had returned to London to carry on business as an East India merchant in Bedford Row. In 1767, at the age of twenty-one, Charles set out for Bengal, with what object is not clearly told; but no doubt bearing recommendations from his London relative. His character and talents appear to have impressed those with whom he came into contact at every period of his life. Soon after his arrival in Bengal he was selected for employment by Richard Becher, a member of the Indian Council, who was anxious to obtain qualified and trustworthy subordinates. Grant's services were of immense value in the terrible famine of 1769-70, which taxed to the utmost all the resources of the Government. Here we may quote a passage in which Dr Smith sets forth the chief points of his career:—

“Charles Grant saw and mitigated the greatest famine on record, which swept off four millions of human beings in Bengal, Behar, and Orissa. He purged the Company's government of abuses at the worst period of its history. A friend of the great missionary, Schwartz, and succourer of Kiernander, the first Protestant missionary to Bengal, he helped William Carey to Serampore, he sent out the evangelical chaplains through Simeon, he founded Haileybury College, he was the chief agent in the institution of the Church Missionary and Bible Societies, he fought for the freedom of the African slave as wisely as for the enlightenment of the caste-bound Hindu. He was the authority from whom Wilberforce derived at once the impulse and knowledge which gained the first battles for toleration in the East India Company's Charters of 1793 and 1813. Above all, Charles Grant wrote in 1792 the noblest treatise on the Asiatic subjects of Great Britain, and the means of improving their moral condition, which the English language has even yet seen. Printed by the House of Commons in 1813, that, too, is forgotten like its author. But in both the historian of the civilisation of our Indian Empire will recognise the most remarkable factors of the progress and the happiness of a population amount-



ing a century later, to two hundred and eighty-six millions of human beings."

Most of what is mentioned in this passage was to come at later stages of his life, but Charles Grant became early acquainted with the horrors of famine on an unexampled scale. A young man of three and twenty, still new to his post in Bengal, he was called upon to assist his chief in the terrible calamity which fell upon the province. Night and day they laboured for the relief of the people, saving many lives, though many also perished. Painful as the task was, the experience no doubt played an important part in developing Grant's administrative powers. His health broke down under the strain, and in the end of 1770 Grant sailed for England. On his return he wrote a defence of Becher, who had been traduced by the French rivals of the Company for his conduct in connection with the famine. During his stay at home Grant married Jane, daughter of Thomas Fraser, a younger son of the Balnain family. As a writer on the Bengal establishment, he returned with his wife to India, arriving at Calcutta in June 1773. On his way out a friend who accompanied him, Lieutenant Fergusson, was killed in a duel which he was forced to fight at Cape Town, and Grant insisted on an investigation, which made the case famous. The next seventeen years of his life were spent in India. During the greater part of the period Warren Hastings was Governor-General, and placed high value on his services. As Factor and Secretary to the Board of Trade, Grant showed so much ability that Hastings, in course of time, gave him the prize of the service as commercial resident in charge of the Silk Manufactory at Malda. Here he not only enjoyed a large salary, but was entitled to certain commissions which enriched him so rapidly that he became sensitive on the subject. To satisfy his own feelings, he asked the Governor-General to have his private books examined along with his public accounts. Lord Cornwallis, who was now at the head of affairs, made a careful investigation, and returned the books with an official expression that he wished all servants of the Company were equally scrupulous. At the same time his lordship promoted him to the direct superintendence of the whole trade of the Company in Bengal. In this position Grant detected and exposed a series of fraudulent practices, which were highly in-

jurious to the interests of the Company. In 1790 the state of his wife's health obliged him to return home. Dr Smith says that unless he had taken this step, he would certainly in a few years have been made Governor-General instead of his friend and junior, Shore, afterwards Lord Teignmouth. "Lord Cornwallis declared his services to be so essential to the interests of the Government that for any less urgent reason he would have insisted on his remaining in India."

Having settled at Clapham, near London, Grant, in 1792, wrote an essay entitled "Observations on the State of Society Among the Asiatic Subjects of Great Britain." For a time he kept it beside him in manuscript as an expression of his mature convictions and a guide to his conduct. In 1793 he was elected a Director of the East India Company, and in 1797 laid his treatise before his colleagues. Though they did not share his views they availed themselves of his talent as an administrator. By his knowledge of business he introduced reforms which saved the Company large sums in freightage. An effort was made by some interested persons to prevent his return to the Directorate; but they failed so completely that the attempt was not renewed. In 1802 Grant was elected Member of Parliament for his native county of Inverness. In 1804 he was chosen Deputy-Chairman of the Court of East India Directors, and Chairman in 1805. Four times he was chosen to one or other of these offices. In 1813, in connection with the renewal of the Company's Charter, Grant's treatise on Indian affairs was laid before the House of Commons, by whose orders it was printed. His policy was to introduce light and civilisation to India through four channels; viz., by the English language and literature; by the mechanical science of the West; by improved modes of agriculture; and by the diffusion of the Christian religion. He was entirely opposed to the anti-missionary spirit which had characterised the Company. In previous years he had checkmated their intolerance by encouraging the Danish missionaries at Serampore, and by having chaplains of an evangelical spirit sent out to Bengal. "In 1813 he triumphed in the Charter which not only organised a double establishment of bishops and chaplains for the British settlers in India, but practically allowed missionaries and teachers free access to the natives, and granted funds for the enlightened education

of the people." Years, however, had to pass before some of his ideas were carried into practice.

The religious character of Charles Grant is apparent from what has been written above. Hugh Miller traces his piety to early impressions received at Cromarty. However this may be, his character seems to have received its final stamp on his second voyage to India in 1773, when he made the acquaintance of the Danish missionary, Schwartz, followed soon afterwards by communication with a Swedish evangelist named Kiernander. Grant's piety was of that deep and pervading kind which influences the whole life and conduct. So far as it was possible to do so, he fostered religious work during his residence in India. The "Christian Guardian" in 1824 says:—"He contributed 500 rupees towards the building of St John's Church in Calcutta, and assisted in procuring valuable materials from a distance. When the Protestant Mission Church was in 1787 placed under sequestration by the Sheriff of Calcutta to answer for the debts of its proprietor, Mr Grant nobly stepped forward, advanced from his purse the sum of 10,000 rupees [about £1250], at which the church was valued, and immediately placed the property, thus secured from desecration, in trust for sacred and charitable purposes for ever, constituting Mr W. Chambers, the Rev. David Browne, and himself as the first trustees. But for this large pecuniary sacrifice, the services of Mr Browne would very probably have been lost to India; and the great and effectual door opened to the labours of a Buchanan, a Thomason, and many others might have remained effectually closed." The Mr Browne here mentioned was an earnest and devoted chaplain of the Church of England. On his return home, Mr Grant associated himself with the religious and philanthropic work of Wilberforce and his friends, to whom he was an inspiring and directing force. In the same spirit he encouraged and assisted religious work and the planting of new churches in the Highlands. The late James Suter states that Sunday schools were first established in Inverness by Charles Grant. Another authority says that "he introduced Sunday schools in Scotland, and for 20 years personally supported two of them." There may be some confusion in the latter sentence between Scotland and the Highlands. Grant for many years attended St John's Chapel, Bedford Row, the head-

quarters of the evangelical party in London. The incumbent, the Rev. Daniel Wilson, who preached his funeral sermon, dwelt specially on his friend's uprightness, his love of justice, his diligence and activity, his spirituality of mind, and consistency of conduct. In 1832, mainly through the influence of Mr Grant's sons, Lord Glenelg and Sir Robert, Mr Wilson was appointed Bishop of Calcutta. Both in this country and in India Bishop Wilson had a high reputation for eloquence, zeal, and usefulness.

Charles Grant became proprietor of the estate of Waternish, and represented the county of Inverness from 1802 till 1818, retiring in the latter year in favour of his eldest son. He promoted the scheme for the construction of the Caledonian Canal and roads and bridges in the Highlands, and was active in every public movement for the welfare of the district. He was a friend of Sir J. P. Grant of Rothiemurchus, who was then an active politician (he sat for Grimsby), and took a prominent part in county affairs. Sir John's daughter says—"The North country owed Charles Grant much; we got canals, roads, bridges, cadetships, and writerships, in almost undue proportion." It may safely be said, however, that no one received any appointment whose qualifications would not bear scrutiny. Grant naturally favoured the people whom he knew and respected. In Parliament he favoured the Catholic claims for emancipation, and opposed the warlike policy of Lord Wellesley in India. His practical sagacity seems to have been his most conspicuous intellectual feature. With the insight and wisdom of a statesman, he left his mark on the conduct of Indian affairs. Dr Smith says that he anticipated men like the Lawrences and their school, making it possible for them to become what they were. Grant also possessed no small share of literary power, though he did not aspire to be a writer. His last years were spent in a house in Russell Square, London, where he died in October 1823. He left three sons, of whom two, Charles and Robert, became eminent. One of his daughters was married to Samuel March Phillips, some time Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department, and the other to Patrick Grant of Lochletter and Redcastle. Charles Grant's widow died in 1827.

## LORD GLENELG AND SIR ROBERT GRANT.

The sons of Charles Grant, senior, who acquired distinction were Charles and Robert, the elder born in 1778 and the younger in 1779. They were born in India, and came home with their father in 1790. Together they were entered as students of Magdalene College, Cambridge, in 1795. In 1801 Charles was fourth wrangler and senior Chancellor's medallist; Robert was third wrangler and second Chancellor's medallist. It was a singular distinction for two brothers to be so closely associated in the honours' list of the same year. The senior wrangler was Henry Martyn, afterwards the famous missionary.

Let us follow, in the first instance, the career of Charles Grant. In 1802 he gained the Members' Prize for a Latin essay, and was elected to a fellowship at his College. In 1805 he won a prize offered by Claudius Buchanan, of the Fort-William College in Bengal, for a poem on "The Restoration of Learning in the East." It is in the style of Dryden and Pope, in the heroic couplet, and much above the average of prize poems. All his life Charles indulged in poetical composition, often scattering original verses in playful form in his letters to his friends. In 1807 he was called to the bar at Lincoln's Inn, but did not practice. He was an early contributor to the "Quarterly Review," and mixed in literary and political circles. The sources of information for his career are the Dictionary of National Biography, and memoirs which appeared at the time of his death, which occurred in April 1866. One of these memoirs was in the "Inverness Courier," written by the late Dr Carruthers, who was a supporter of Grant in the contests for the representation for the County in the thirties. The sketch which follows is to a considerable extent a summary of this article. It may be desirable, however, at this point to give a few facts and dates so as to avoid details in subsequent paragraphs. Charles Grant entered Parliament as representative of the Inverness Burghs in November 1811. He retained the seat until 1818, when he succeeded his father as member for the County, and continued to represent the constituency until his elevation to the peerage as Lord Glenelg in 1835. In 1813 he was made a Lord of the Treasury, under Lord Liverpool; in 1819, Chief Secretary for Ireland and a Privy Councillor; in 1823, Vice-President of

the Board of Trade; and in 1827, President of the Board of Trade and Treasurer of the Navy in Canning's administration. In June 1828 he resigned office with other members of the Canningite party. In 1830 he became President of the Board of Control, under Earl Grey, and held the same office in Lord Melbourne's first Ministry till its resignation in November 1834. In 1835 he was appointed Colonial Secretary in Lord Melbourne's second Ministry, being at the same time raised to the peerage. The period of his administration was, however, marked by troubles in South Africa and in Canada, and in February 1839 he resigned office, and spent the remainder of his life in retirement.

Soon after entering the House of Commons, Charles Grant distinguished himself by several brilliant speeches, which attracted the attention of Lord Liverpool, and secured him his first post in the Government. Though all his life a shy, diffident man, he had an ambition to excel as a speaker. To his friend, Lady Hood, afterwards Mrs Stewart Mackenzie of Seaforth, he writes of one of his early appearances—"You advise me to speak and not be shy. The papers will show you that I have followed your advice, and, to say the truth, have succeeded better than I expected. I spoke in favour of the Catholics, and received many compliments, but from no person more agreeable than from your friend Lady Spencer." Grant was the first Secretary for Ireland who sought to carry out conciliatory measures. He endeavoured to suppress Orange demonstrations, to secure the impartial administration of justice, and to devise a system of national education adapted for Catholics as well as Protestants. He drew attention also to the defects in the police and the magistracy, and proposed important reforms which were carried out at a later date. Some of his colleagues in the Irish administration did not approve of his liberal views, and friction arose. Transferred to the Board of Trade, Grant supported the policy of Huskisson for the relaxation of restrictions on commerce, on shipping, on silk manufactures, and other articles. The rupture which took place after Canning's death affected the future of political parties and the fortunes of political personages. Grant was out of office when the Duke of Wellington and Sir Robert Peel passed the Act for the Emancipation of Catholics, but he approved of the measure, and gave it his cordial support. When he returned to office as President of the

Board of Control, he took a leading part in the revision of the Charter of the East India Company, and was able to carry a compromise, which settled for a period the relations of the Company to the Imperial Government.

For many years Mr Grant sat securely as member for the County of Inverness, but the introduction of the First Reform Bill disturbed all existing political relations. He had then to defend his change of opinion in favour of Reform, but he did so manfully, by an open, explicit acknowledgment of the fact. Some of his oratorical utterances are worthy of note. "My reading of the constitution," he said, "is that it contains within itself a principle of self-renovation, that as in early periods it was suited to the petty wants and minor exigencies of an infant people, so it has grown with their growth and strengthened with their strength, and is capable, by the fulness and freeness and stability of its movements, to meet all the capacities and exigencies of a great and Imperial nation." Speaking of the term "Destructives" hurled against the Whigs, he said:—

"The true Conservative principle is wise and seasonable improvement. The true Destructive principle is resistance to all improvement till you become the victims of innovation. It is easy for a statesman to fold his arms and say—'I take my stand upon the institutions of the country; I will admit of no alteration.' But all is change around him. Nature changes, the seasons change, time and circumstances change; mind and manners change; the relations of States, the interests and obligations of nations, the wants and feelings and habits of mankind—all change. Yet the statesman resists! In the meantime the waters gather round him, the storm beats over his head, and he is engulfed in the abyss which his folly had dug under his feet. The true sagacity of the statesman is to observe the nature and course of coming events, to calculate their dimensions by the shadows they cast before; to observe what the progress of society and the variation of circumstances may require, and thus in some sense to mould the future to his purposes, and to control what appears to be uncontrollable."

These sentences may give some idea of the style of Mr Grant's oratory in the days of the Reform controversy. It was more florid than the taste of the present day sanctions, but with his fervid delivery, his evident sin-

cerity, and his commanding appearance, the effect was electrical. It was interesting, says Dr Carruthers, to see how he could blend business details with these figurative bursts and that ornate language, and how sound sense and sagacity underlay all. Election contests gradually weakened Mr Grant's hold on the county, and his majority having sunk to seven, he consented, at the suggestion of Lord Palmerston, to withdraw from the Commons and accept a peerage. For some time he hesitated between the titles of Lord Grant, Lord Arnisdale, and Lord Glenelg, but finally adopted the last, to the amusement of some of his sarcastic opponents, who did not fail to remark that the name read the same backwards as forwards! In Inverness his friends gave the new peer a splendid banquet, at which most of the county magnates of Inverness and Ross were present; and thus terminated a connection honourable alike to the representative and the constituency.

Lord Glenelg was a member of the Government when slavery was abolished in the West Indies, and as Colonial Secretary he had the pleasure of witnessing its final extinction. In connection with South Africa, he disapproved of the proclamation of Sir Benjamin D'Urban extending the boundaries of Cape Colony to the river Kei. Sir Benjamin accordingly resigned, and the question led to warm discussion. The great crisis in Canadian affairs came in Lord Glenelg's administration. He had to face the difficulties which culminated in the rebellion of 1837. Lord Durham, who was sent out as a special Commissioner in 1838, issued an ordinance sentencing the rebels who had surrendered to perpetual banishment to the Bermudas. Lord Glenelg at first approved of the proclamation, but Lord Melbourne subsequently announced its partial withdrawal, and the brunt of the storm fell on the Colonial Secretary. His colleagues, Lord John Russell and Lord Howick, joined in blaming his administration, and Lord Glenelg felt himself obliged to retire. Dr Carruthers says that if Lord Glenelg had been allied to any of the great political families, no Minister would have dared to slight his merits or overlook his claims. He had the misfortune, however, to take up the work of the Colonial Office at a time when novel and complicating conditions arose. His experience and training lay in connection with domestic and Indian affairs. The Government at one time were willing to appoint



him Governor-General of India in succession to Lord George Bentinck, and in this sphere he would have been more at home. Lord Glenelg was conscientious to a degree, and assiduous in his attention to details. Lord Brougham pronounced him to be "the purest statesman he had ever known." Some of his despatches vindicating the rights of natives in the Colonies, repressing idolatry, and abolishing slavery throughout the British possessions in South Africa, are models of elevated and just thought, and of fine, impressive English.

After his retirement from office, Lord Glenelg withdrew in a great measure from public affairs. He rarely went to the House of Lords, or took any active part in Parliamentary business. He was unmarried, but books, society, visits to the country and the Continent, relieved the monotony of bachelor life. His kindness of heart showed itself in many unostentatious acts of benevolence. Late in life he set himself to the study of German that he might be able to read Goethe in the original. His last days were spent in the companionship of Lord Brougham at Cannes, where he died on 23rd April 1866, in the eighty-eighth year of his age.

Robert Grant had a shorter and less exciting career. He was called to the bar the same day as his brother, 30th January 1807, and entered on practice, becoming King's Sergeant in the Court of the Duchy of Lancaster, and one of the Commissioners in Bankruptcy. He was elected Member of Parliament for the Elgin Burghs in 1818, and for the Inverness Burghs in 1826. The latter constituency he represented for four years. In 1830 and 1831 he was returned for Norwich, and in 1832 for Finsbury. Robert Grant was a strenuous advocate for the removal of the disabilities of the Jews, and twice carried bills on the subject through the House of Commons. They were, however, rejected in the Upper House, which did not yield on the question until 1858, twenty years after Grant's death. In 1832 he became Judge Advocate-General, and in 1834 was appointed Governor of Bombay, receiving the honour of knighthood. He died in India in 1838. In his younger days, Sir Robert published an essay on the trade and government of India, and a sketch of the early history of the East India Company. He was the author of a volume of sacred poems, which was edited and published after his death by his brother, Lord Glenelg. This volume includes some

beautiful hymns, which have found their way into modern collections. Sir Robert married Margaret, only daughter of Sir David Davidson of Cantray, with issue two sons and two daughters, namely, Sir Charles Grant, K.C.S.I., formerly a Member of Council in India; Colonel Robert Grant, R.E., Deputy Adjutant-General; Sibylla Sophia, married to Granville Ryder, Esq., and Constance Chare-mile, who died in childhood.

## NOTE C.

## THE NORTHERN MEETING.

The Northern Meeting dates from 1788, in which year it was instituted. A printed notice which once came into our hands contains the original constitution and regulations. A meeting was held at Inverness on the 11th of June 1788, at which were present—Colonel Hugh Grant of Moy, Mr Cumming of Altyre, Mr Macleod of Geanies, Mr Munro of Culcairn, Mr Fraser of Relick, Mr Fraser of Culduthel, Captain Alexander Mackenzie, 71st Regiment; Captain William Wilson, 39th Regiment; Mr Baillie of Dochfour, Captain Grigor Grant, Lieut. John Rose, and Dr John Alves (who was appointed the first secretary). These gentlemen resolved to form an Association with the view of holding “an annual meeting of gentlemen, ladies, and their families,” not for a couple of days merely, but to extend over a whole week, “and that for the purpose of promoting social intercourse.” The fee was to be one guinea, payable by “every gentleman or lady being the head of a family”; and to ensure regular attendance it was agreed that every absentee member should pay a fine of two guineas. This rule, it appears, was not allowed to remain a dead letter, for the first year no less than £40 was added to the funds in the shape of fines. Officers absent on duty were exempted from penalty. The whole business was to be conducted by stewards, of whom the first set were—Mr Cumming of Altyre, Mr Fraser of Culduthel, Mr Fraser of Relick, and Mr Macleod of Geanies. At that time Highland games were not thought of; the sole object of the Meeting was to foster social enjoyment. Dinners and balls were to be held during the week. The company, ladies and gentlemen, were to dine together in full evening dress, “the first day at Mr Beverley’s Hotel, the second at Mr Ettles’s Hotel, and thereafter at the inns alternately.” Dancing was to commence precisely at 8 o’clock, and to stop precisely at twelve. From the first it was resolved to keep the company select, and the stewards alone had the privilege of introducing strangers. Mr Cumming of Altyre was directed to write to Captain

Graham, Master of the Ceremonies at Edinburgh, for a copy of the regulations adopted there, and to deposit these as the regulations of the Northern Meeting. The Provost of Inverness was to be applied to for the use of the Town Hall for the balls and the room above for the tea-room. Each morning a public breakfast was to be held "for as many ladies and gentlemen as choose to resort there." One rule is rather curious—"That no subscription paper for any public or private work or undertaking shall, under any pretext whatever, be obtruded on the company when met collectively; and that whoever presumes to infringe on this regulation shall be subject to a fine of one guinea." The members believed that hunting would be desirable to fill up the mornings; and so Brodie of Brodie and Macleod of Geanies were requested to apply to the Duke of Gordon and Sir Robert Munro of Foulis for the favour of their huntsmen and hounds. The proposal to form the Northern Meeting seems to have been taken up with great eagerness; for before the first meeting held in 1788, between 80 and 90 members had joined from the counties of Inverness, Ross, Nairn, and Moray. For many years the Meeting was held in the second week of October.

The original meetings of the Association were very different from the present, and perhaps even more agreeable. A formal ball every evening was found to be rather heavy, and so, in order to obtain lightness and variety, it was resolved the second or third year to have only two dress balls, namely, on Tuesday and Friday. On the other evenings the company were to assemble in undress to play cards and dance. The gentlemen of the Meeting wore a gay uniform. Whether such uniform was used from the beginning does not appear; but an old authority states that a year or two afterwards it consisted of a grass-green coat with a buff edging, white metal buttons, and black velvet cape, with four silver embroidered or vellum button-holes. The waistcoat was buff or fancy coloured; the breeches buff or black silk; and the buttons had the letters N.M. engraved upon them. A gay time it must have been when the members sported through the Highland Capital in this dashing costume, following the Duke of Gordon's hounds in the morning, dining and dancing in the afternoon and evening. In 1810 we

learn that on the motion of the Marquis of Huntly it was resolved that all the members should appear in blue coats from the Inverness Woollen Manufactory. This was to encourage local industry. The stewards at first wore badges; subsequently they were provided with wands; then tartan sashes were substituted; and latterly they returned to badges. About the year 1816 horse-racing was added to the programme, and some years later a course was formed at Duncanroy. But the members never regarded the races as properly part of the Meeting. They subscribed for them, and offered pieces of plate for the winning horses; but finding this a tax upon their funds, they ultimately withdrew their subscriptions and the races were discontinued. The races now held at or about the Meeting time are on an independent basis. The practice of holding Highland games seems to have been commenced about 1840. At first they were got up by a separate subscription, and were held in the Academy Park. Then they were transferred to the Longman, where there was ample space. In the early sixties the present Northern Meeting Park was acquired from the late Sir Alexander Matheson of Ardrross, and enclosed with a wall. A handsome pavilion for the accommodation of members and their friends was erected, and a second pavilion was subsequently added.

At an early stage the Association resolved to have a building of its own for the annual assemblies. The Town Hall and the Guildry (as the upper room was called) were probably found to be too small to accommodate the company. A piece of ground was acquired in Church Street, on which a building was erected; and this, rebuilt and added to, forms the present Northern Meeting Rooms. In 1801 a serious misfortune occurred. A candle manufactory was in close proximity to the building, above which a powder magazine was kept! In these days the public regulations with reference to explosive articles must have been extremely lax. One night the heat of the candle factory reached the powder; an explosion ensued, causing the loss of seven lives and injury to many other persons. The buildings of the Meeting, as well as the factory itself, were greatly damaged. The Rooms, however, were soon rebuilt, and in 1845 or thereabouts assumed their present form. Internally they have been greatly improved since that time,

The annals of the Meeting in the first quarter of the Nineteenth Century are set forth in the pages of this volume. Year after year the members assembled, passed their time in "social intercourse," and parted. From 1788 until the present time, the Meeting has continued to be a favourite gathering both for county families and autumn visitors. In 1795 a proposal was made to adjourn the Meeting for the year, so many members being necessarily absent in the service of their country. This proposal, however, was negatived, and the Meeting was held annually during the Napoleonic wars—although for years a considerable amount of fines had to be remitted to members "necessarily absent." In 1796 a paragraph appeared in the Edinburgh newspapers, stating that considering the circumstances, the Meeting of that year had been well attended. It had passed off very successfully, "with a brilliant assemblage of beauty and fashion." The year 1832 was a blank in the history of the Meeting, the gathering having been adjourned in consequence of the prevalence of cholera; and in 1900 the balls were put off on account of the losses and disorganisation caused by the South African war. In the latter year, however, one day was given to Highland sports. The fines for absence have long since ceased to be exacted, and the terms of admission have more than once been changed. The uniform is also a thing of the past, but the Highland dress holds its own. The Meeting continues to flourish, and promises to continue for a long time to come as a fashionable and successful Highland institution.

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